



Discovering foreign beer

Page 17



## Summer home accessories

Page 16



## Haven for new bands

Pages 12-13



# Party to learn



The World Expo in Shanghai is another pearl on China's crown. And the government believes the Expo will further improve Shanghai and China socially and economically, as well as leave a legacy for the world.

While analysts and critics are trying to read profound meanings into the 5.28-square-kilometer Expo Garden on both sides of the Huangpu River, to Chinese visitors it is a playground and a chance to get to know the world better.

Read more on Pages 4-5

CFP Photo



## Transsexual surprises talent show

Page 7

## Jet makers see future in China

Page 6

## Libraries for village women

Page 10

## Giving up on Beijing life

Page 15

## Opera, classical music extravaganza

Pages 20-21

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# Total smoking ban indoors, ministry leads the way

By Han Manman

The Ministry of Health vowed to eliminate smoking in all its offices within four months, part of an arduous nationwide campaign to curb smoking in public.

"No Smoking" signs will be placed in the ministry's conference rooms, lavatories, car parks and stairways while a designated smoking area will be set up outside its office building, said Yang Qing, a senior ministry official.

He said the ministry has also banned its employees from giving tobacco as gifts – a tradition deeply rooted in Chinese office culture. Employees who violate the directive will be punished, while those who quit smoking within a year can expect cash rewards, Yang said.

The ministry hopes to be a role model in helping the government implement a total smoking ban in 2011.

It announced in a press conference Monday a plan to ban smoking in all public venues and work sites starting next year, the first time the central government has outlined a long-term, nationwide smoking ban.

The health ministry said smoking will be prohibited in all indoor public venues and workplaces, as well as in trains, buses and other public transportation. Selected outdoor sites will also be subjected to the ban expected to be in place in January.

The ban follows the guidelines set by the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which China signed in January 2006 and pledged to uphold within five years.

The government's move, however, is



Many locals smoke inside restaurants even though there are no-smoking signs around. CFP Photo

not its first effort to stamp out smoking.

Local governments have ramped up anti-smoking campaigns in recent years, but these have not been effective as there are no strict laws in place.

Beijing implemented a smoking ban in 2008, designating public areas such as clinics, cinemas and stadiums as smoke-free zones, while restaurants and hotels were ordered to assign smoke-free sections.

But according to an investigation conducted by the Beijing Municipal Health Bureau, almost 2,000 indoor public venues in the capital were found to have broken the no-smoking rules last year.

Many think the government's new health initiative will be equally unsuccessful.

Some restaurants and cafes said they are reluctant to report offenders as they fear losing customers. "We will

try to politely persuade a customer to stop smoking, but we cannot do anything about it if the smoker refuses," said Sun Jin, a waiter for a Spanish restaurant in Beijing.

People believe the government should increase fines for establishments that fail to prevent smokers from lighting up.

Meanwhile, Chu Renjie said a smoking ban inside buildings is "inhumane" to smokers like him and that he thinks the smoking ban will be derailed by lack of specific regulations and close supervision.

"Most of my company's bosses are smokers, and they always smoke in the office. I don't think they will go out to smoke," Chu said, adding, "Who will dare report them if they smoke indoors?"

He also doubts that the rules could be strictly implemented in a country where more than a quarter of the population smokes.

According to the latest online survey by Sina.com, more than 60 percent of 50,000 respondents believe a total smoking ban by next year will not be achieved.

Yang Gonghuan, deputy director of China Center for Disease Control and Prevention, echoed the sentiment. "Anti-smoking regulations and laws in the country are not yet properly in place. And law enforcement is not in place, so regulations exist in name only."

About 350 million of China's 1.3 billion people smoke, with the nation consuming up to one-third of the tobacco products sold worldwide annually, according to data from the Chinese Association on Tobacco Control.

## Study says migrant workers hinder urbanization

By Zhao Hongyi

Some 100 million rural residents enter the cities every year for work, making China the world's largest "pendulum clock" of migrant workers and hindering urbanization, a recent report said.

Since the country instituted economic reforms three decades ago, demand for cheap labor has lured masses of people from the countryside to coastal cities, said the report, prepared by the China Association of Mayors and the China Science Center of the International Eurasian Academy of Sciences.

"In 2008, labor pouring into cities reached 140 million," the report said. "It has been a major force in China's urbanization."

The country's urbanization process has clearly stemmed from migrant workers, it said, illustrating the development flow as, "Migrant workers = cheap labor = cheap land = higher GDP = higher urban population = urbanization."

"But this model has caused a number of problems and is not sustainable though it has played an important role in the process," said Zou Deci, a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and a consultant at the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design.

The problems include the huge gap between the rich and poor, lack of qualified public services and goods, soaring house prices, traffic congestion and environmental degradation.

Another typical headache is "Spring Festival transport." This year, 192 million migrant workers and their family members rushed home by train and another 2.11 billion by bus to celebrate Chinese New Year. The same thing happens in reverse after the festival, thus earning migrant workers the nickname "pendulum clocks."

"The transport rush happens every year and exhausts social resources," Zou said.

During the global financial crisis from late 2008 to early 2009, more than 10 million migrant workers lost their jobs, resulting in big social problems like crime.

"These problems clearly prove that our urbanization model is not sustainable and is fragile," Zou said.

According to 2008 statistics, the country's urbanization in terms of population reached 45.7 percent, meaning 720 million people still remained in rural areas. Among them, skilled laborers are estimated at 100 to 150 million.

"Unemployment in rural populations cannot disappear in the long run since it's difficult for the cities to absorb more (laborers)," the report said.

The solution, it said, lies in small towns. "We need to spend more to develop the small towns if we want to solve the problems that have accumulated over decades and to come out on top in the years to come," said Zou.

At the beginning of the new millennium, the Chinese government drew a blueprint of urbanization as "developing cities and towns in balance."

"The government plans to promote urbanization, including the development of small towns as one of the two engines to continue the growth and development of the economy, along with strong industrial production and upgrading," said Wang Guogang, director of the Institute of Finance and Banking at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

## Expats to be counted in 2010 national census

By Han Manman

Expats are for the first time to be included in the national census because of their growing numbers in the country, Beijing officials said.

Expats, as well as residents of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, living on the Chinese mainland will be counted in the 2010 census that will begin November.

Information collected by the census will include name, age, nationality, reasons for coming to China, educational background, profession, length of stay in the country and address in the last six months, according to the Municipal Statistics Bureau.

"More expats are coming in, and China has seen an increasing trend of labor migration and differences in registered and actual residences," said Xing Zhihong, spokesman for Beijing's census group.

"Compared with expats' registry with the border police, this census aims to know more," Xing said, adding that some expats enter China through border cities like Guangzhou but live and work in other cities like Beijing. The sixth national census aims to know the general situation of their lives here.

But the information gathering will not involve personal questions, Xing said, adding that expats can be assured the information they share with the census group will remain confidential.

For a trial run Monday, the Beijing statistics bureau chose to visit communities in Dongzhimen and Wangjing, key residential areas for expats.



The trial census conducted in Seasons Park this week

CFP Photo

In Seasons Park, an upscale neighborhood in Dongzhimen with one-third of the 2,000 households composed of foreigners, some 20 census workers and English-speaking volunteers in four groups knocked on doors.

Their job was to ensure that all residents knew the decennial census was coming and to assist the city statistics bureau with its implementation, said Ji Dongmei, a spokeswoman for the management association of Seasons Park.

Jin said the association also assigned

staff members to accompany the census workers to ensure their work went smoothly. But she said there have been some difficulty locating expat residents who have a busy work schedule or who may also have a home in other cities.

The door-to-door data-collection on China's population will employ 6 million enumerators. In Beijing, 100,000 will be summoned to the mission, which will for the first time be joined by volunteers fluent in foreign languages, mostly college students.



# Peking University strengthens management of animal testing

By Li Zhixin

Peking University has made a move to strengthen the management of experimentation on animals, though it denies accusations of animal rights abuse and the use of unsolicited cats in educational testing, as allegedly exposed in an undercover investigation by a *Beijing News* reporter last Monday.

The university has asked all departments to report their list of experimental animals to the Peking University Medical Ethics Committee to get ratification before using them in a laboratory setting.

The *Beijing News* report said cats used in the university's labs were not specially bred for medical use in a sterile environment. Rather, they were bought from cat dealers who round up strays in the city.

The newspaper sent a reporter who pretended to be an auditor for a pharmacology testing class. Before the test started, a white

cat weighing less than 3 kilograms was hidden in a bag outside the lab, waiting to be dissected. Later it was brought in a wooden box specially designed for anesthetizing. The staff injected three percent of a narcotic through holes on the top and side. Once anesthetized, the cat was placed on an operating table with its four legs tied by ropes. Its jaws were opened and a metal ring inserted.

Two and a half hours later, the test was finished and a student injected a chemical into one of the cat's legs to euthanize it. A cleaner packed the body into a plastic bag to be incinerated with that of another cat, which had died during the same class.

The report quoted a teacher saying that the cats were wild cats from the suburbs, and a private cat seller will send cats to the school whenever they call.

"Using cats from unidentified sources did not meet the provisions of the regulations on labo-



Peking University is under fire after reported using unsolicited cats in educational testing.

CFP Photo

ratory testing," said Li Genping, spokesman of the Beijing Administration Office of Laboratory Animals. "Experimenting on strays was against regulations and, if proven, institutions can be

ordered to stop such activities and, in serious cases, the animal-testing license can be revoked."

The Regulations for the Administration of Affairs Concerning Experimental Animals, approved by the State Council in 1988, state that all experimental animals must have known backgrounds or be artificially fed and bred under strictly controlled conditions. Animals for experiments can be classified as quality animals, clean animals, animals carrying no specific pathogens and animals carrying no bacteria.

Peking University's medical school denied the report and said the cats were purchased but not from local sellers.

"The university does use cats to do experiments, but those cats were not bought from private cat sellers," said Jiang Hui, spokesman for Peking University. "We buy them from professional animal farms. I have the formal purchase invoice. We have not vio-

lated the country's regulations."

Hui declined to give the farms' names or any further information.

Professor Zheng Zhenhui, chief of the school's experimental animal science department, said, "The test was a classic animal test that has used cats for more than 30 years in China, and cats are the most suitable animal for it. The country has a specific regulation to manage experimental animals, but experimental animals are only one type of all animals used for experiments. The university has fed animals we are licensed to use, but for the other animals we need during the teaching process (cats are one of them), we have to purchase from the market."

He said there was a difference between "experimental animals," which are covered by state regulations, and other animals used by laboratories, which are not regulated, and cats are among the latter.

## First used luxury auto trade center opened in Beijing

By Chu Meng

The country's first, biggest and most expensive second-hand luxury auto trade center opened in Beijing Used Auto Market near South Fourth Ring Road last weekend. It covers an area of 7,200 square meters and offers cars starting from 500,000 yuan.

The center offers the world's top 10 luxury cars, including Ferrari Enzo, Porsche Carrera GT, and Lamborghini Murcielago, and ordinary high-end cars such as Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen, Audi and BMW.

"The daily value of cars together in the center reaches 200 million yuan," said Wang

Meng, director of the center.

Wang said the new center cooperates directly with high-end auto companies' second-hand auto sectors, providing 4S service standards, including a full set of after-sale service such as a one-year warranty and roadside assistance.

China is the fastest growing new-car market in the world, and the used-car business is rapidly developing on its heels. In the past, many Chinese people disdained used vehicles because new ones were considered symbols of wealth and success.

"Auto buyers are becoming more open-minded about used

cars, and many are finding quality there," Wang said. "Most luxury cars in the center are within three years old. Some are even one month old."

Considering the origins of autos for sale in the center, Wang said there were generally four resources: five percent are test drive vehicles; 15 percent are products from auto companies' second-hand auto sectors; 10 percent are cars repossessed from banks, law courts and pawn shops; and the rest are trade-ins from average consumers, especially wealthy Chinese businessmen.

"Explosive growth in car ownership in China in the last six years

has put about 70 million vehicles on the roads. Since car owners typically replace their vehicles every five years — luxury autos every three years — the prospect for a surge in the second-hand market is strong," said Wang Xia, an official from China International Trade Promotion Commission Automobile Industry Sub-Commission.

Wang gave an example. A 35-year-old Chinese businessman whose surname is Shao bought a Rolls-Royce Phantom VI for 11 million yuan just last month. His one-month-old sedan was traded into Wang's center last week for 9 million. It had only been run for a few thou-

sand miles. "The only reason he gave was he wanted to save some money because of the economic environment," Wang said.

Wang said the used car market in China may hit 3 million units this year, rising to more than 4.8 million vehicles by 2012. In the US, three used vehicles are sold for every new car sold. In Japan, the ratio is about 2.5. In Beijing, the biggest used car market in China, the proportion is only 0.66. That suggests there is a lot of room for growth. The used car market in China will eventually account for two-thirds of auto sales, up from 23 percent at present.

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## Letter from Shanghai

In our modern global village, the World Expo may be losing its appeal for audiences that don't necessarily need it to see the world's latest inventions or trends. But it is still an effective and concrete way for people to congregate, to get to know each other and brainstorm. This year it's about urban life.

A country becomes "urban" when more than half of its population lives in the cities. China has almost realized

that – from 17 percent in 1978 to 46 percent in 2008.

People enjoy advantages and suffer disadvantages during urban development. The problem's causes may be the same, but the solutions differ. In the coming six months, our reporters will touch on the hot topics from Expo 2010, find common cases and solutions and record their observations in this series titled "Letter from Shanghai."

# Thinking outside the old city way

By Yu Shanshan

In China Pavilion, a movie gives a good overview of China's urban changes. In three decades, an increasing number of people have run from rural farmlands to cities hoping to realize their dreams of prosperity. Today, the story

continues, yet people have bigger ambitions – and bigger challenges. How can we have clean air like in ancient times while enjoying the comfortable life with modern technology? How can a city attract talent from around the world? How can we achieve a good balance between old and new?

### Reminder 1 The playground

#### Genius is a player

The China market has witnessed the rise of international brands like Nokia, Apple, Sony, Samsung and Toyota, yet it still holds the role as world manufacturer. Creativity is the next step for the Chinese government, which has been calling on development in the so-called "creative industry." But things change very slowly.

Beijing hosted the first China City Week after the Expo began on May 1. The schedule combined showcases of old Beijing culture and modern Beijing business. Officials from district governments, culture and travel bureaus expressed their wish to have more travelers and investment in the capital, while multinational entrepreneurs, in return, expressed their confidence in the Beijing environment.

Deng Yuanjun, vice chairman of Nokia, shared his company's experience on what a great creative ecology system is about. It should include rich human resources, energetic local technical firms, creative multinational cooperation, investors that focus on creativity, systems of law, finance and social service, creative infrastructure and a market that consumes creativity.

It's easy to be understood by officials, but how to make Beijing a charming playground does not merely depend on lower taxes, new infrastructure or how many World 500 companies there are, but more on people – creative talents coming from around the world with the willingness to live in town, where they can get inspi-

ration in everyday life, according to Paul Moony, an American columnist.

"Maybe the municipal government should not only showcase the protected handicrafts but also the new rising faces like young rockers, street singers and graffiti artists," said a foreigner at the Expo's Baogang Stage, where traditional craftsmen were performing their hundred-year-old craftsmanship.

### Reminder 2 The countryside Urban is not necessarily better

While all are singing love songs about city life, Tengtou confidently leads a happy village life.

Tengtou, a village governed by the city of Ningbo, is the only rural UBPA (urban best practice area) pavilion at the Expo. It is not only an original rural village but also a modern, ecological town, with the slogan, "A village aspired by city people."

Walking on the slope that leads to the garden of the pavilion, people would stop to listen to the sounds of nature, each named after one of 24 Chinese solar terms. After listening, one enters a courtyard with a small patch of rice paddies, a typical crop of southern China, and a prototype of a Tengtou folk house, which contains green plants, wind and solar power facilities, a roof garden and water and waste treatment systems. People can stop to inhale the air made fragrant by anions (the region may boast the highest anion quantity in Shanghai, with over 10,000), which reflect the



Visitors waiting to enter the UK pavilion.

CFP Photos

local people's healthy lifestyle and a harmonious coexistence with nature. Water will be sprayed from time to time, forming a rainbow.

All of the above form an identity for the beautiful village, where villagers have been taught ecology since two decades ago. Their life goal is "to make everyone lead a happy life."

### Reminder 3 The heritage Old hot is new cool

Using the Expo, Shanghai is reinventing itself on a strategic scale. Large-scale regeneration and development goes hand-in-hand with small-scale initiatives.

In 1986, Wu Zhiqiang read an English-language description about

Expo in a university library, finding it was full of new constructions and plans. Two decades later, Wu, then the general director of Expo Garden, got a bold idea.

Expo Garden used to be home to more than 100 factories for shipmaking, steel and electricity. For years, it was the cheapest land in Shanghai. Before the Shanghai Expo, there was no profit to be had in renovating old buildings for Expo use. The Bureau of International Expositions (BIE) didn't approve Wu's idea to transform this area to lure Expo visitors.

Half a year later, Wu and the Chinese side brought out a convincing argument, and the decision was made.

The plan kept more than 300,000 square meters of old buildings, and more than 25 percent of this year's pavilions have utilized these buildings.

Beyond the small redecoration cases, the Shanghai government drew out more ambitious plans for the area. They hope people will come here, an economic hub with a new culture, even after the Expo ends.

Wu's ambition is to use the Expo to establish the East and West sides of Shanghai, making a new public center for the metropolis. The themed pavilions will become international conference centers, the Expo performance center will become a culture communication center and the press center will be the conference venue for the Shanghai government, with each part connected via Metro. The plan is designed to create a "future city." On the whole, the place may become an important business district.

### Reporter's note

As yet another example of China's prosperous economy, the Expo in Shanghai is like the pearl on the crown. The government believes the Expo will push Shanghai and China up in social and economic terms, as well as leave a legacy for the world.

While analysts and critics are trying to read deep meanings into this 5.28-square-kilometer area on both sides of the Huangpu River, Chinese audiences just take it as a playground, a place for getting together for family activities, a chance to get closer to the world.

Wang Quanxing has come from Beijing with his wife and

6-year-old boy. He has been standing in queue waiting to enter the UK Pavilion for two hours.

"I want to let my son see the world as early as possible," he said, pointing at his boy who is napping beside the wall of "Seed Cathedral." People in line are happily waving and saying "hello" to the two British actors dressed as flowers and amusing waiting audience on the pavilion roof. The short performance seems to make people happy and relieved after such a long wait.

Chinese people have a lasting passion for the outside world. The collective showcases awaken



Beijing presents China's traditional culture during its week-long parade.

them from ignorance and remind them that they have more than one choice to make their lives better. Their dissatisfaction can inspire change, and change the way the government works. This message is the best thing that the Shanghai Expo can leave for Shanghai and for China.

### Continue reading on Page 5.

In today's global environment, can the Expo still inspire new inventions? Is there any treasure left in the national pavilions? Any suggestions for local people regarding city development? Reports Chu Meng reports.



... continued from page 5.

# General Commissioners proud of their pavilions



Pertti Huitu, Commissioner General, Finland

Photo by Zhou Wei



Beniamino Quintieri, Commissioner General, Italy

Photo provided by Italian Embassy



Jose Freches, Commissioner General, France

Photo provided by French Embassy



Prince of Saudi Arabia (left) and Mohammed Al-Ghamdi, executive director (right), Saudi Arabia

Photo provided by Saudi Embassy

By Chu Meng

I am most proud of, first, the mystery of Kirnu ("giant's kettle" in English) and its architecture, which is very simple and represents minimalism in architecture. It instantly generates lots of questions.

People are curious to learn what is inside the building, for its exterior reveals almost nothing. Only the patio, which leads visitors into the actual exhibition, reveals the actual shape of the building. The structure's form is well-founded and plain. Our starting point was to design an exhibition experience that would reflect Finnishness while inspiring and inspiring Chinese visitors with its simplicity.

When entering the exhibition, you will find the story turns magical. Using very big animation screens, it opens up a deep insight into the elements of Finland and Finnishness. One example is the media wall where visitors can get snapshots with 204 Nokia mobile phones and see their images on the phone screens and also on the big screen in the next exhibition hall.

- From Pertti Huitu

The "innovative technologies" the Italian Pavilion adopted while being built is what we will preach to the world through the Expo. For example, the pavilion's floor tiles are made of a new, antibiotic material. When people walk on the tiles, a chemical reaction occurs and triggers an antibiotic action.

Moreover, the walls of the pavilion were built using the latest technological patent: transparent cement, through which light can pass and reach indoors. People outside can see people inside the pavilion through the transparent cement wall.

In order to have more people getting involved with innovative technologies, a contest themed the "Italian innovation," sponsored by the Italian World Expo Committee, has been ongoing since last June, in which many of the latest advanced technologies were displayed. Between July 15 and 30 this year, 265 pieces of excellent works from the contest have been chosen to be put on display in the Italian Pavilion.

An expert panel, composed of advanced scientists and technicians, as well as other experts and people from the media, will select the innovations that conform to the two focuses of the Italian Pavilion: urban development and quality of life.

- From Beniamino Quintieri

According to our research, the French Pavilion is the most anticipated at the Expo, save for the Chinese and US pavilions. I believe the award should go to seven national art treasures from the Orsay Museum, consisting of six oil paintings by Auguste Rodin and Vincent Van Gogh and one sculpture by Rodin, which can be seen inside our pavilion.

These treasures have been individually exhibited in New York and Tokyo, but have never left France together. What's more, this time they will be exhibited for as long as six months. It's unprecedented that the director of Orsay Museum would allow them to be lent out together at the same time.

Actually, exhibiting these treasures is a bit of a chore for me, since there are many problems with insurance, transport, management and security. Finally we decided to transport them by planes separately, as it would be too risky to transport them together, so we had to use seven planes.

- From Jose Freches

Saudi Arabia Pavilion, the second-largest pavilion after China, is a huge hanging boat shaped like a half-moon. The boat is full of date palms, treasures, as well as beautiful blessings from Saudi Arabia to China.

A 360-degree 1,600-square-meter cinema screen, the biggest IMAX screen in the world, has definitely become the main attraction of our pavilion. The screen can cover the area of two football fields. Because of that, ours has become one of the most popular pavilions in Expo Park.

With the IMAX screen, the theater, called the "Wow Space," takes audiences to the country's oases, deserts, villages, seas and cities with our modern architecture as well as traditional bazaars. Through the screen, audiences can stroll about and visit Bedouin nomads on their camels, as well as scholars, artists and other urbanites. They can also take a virtual flying carpet ride through mythical and modern Saudi Arabia.

The roof of the pavilion is a garden with both Chinese and Saudi trees growing, a symbol of the friendship between the two nations. Saudi Arabia, the homeland of the date palm tree, has reproduced the scene of an oasis in the desert by replanting 150 palm trees on both the rooftop garden and the friendship garden at the ground level.

- From Mohammed Alisssan Al-Ghamdi

## Suggestion for Beijing learnt from the Expo



Hreinn Pálsson, consul general and commissioner general for Iceland

Photo by He Jianwei

Pure energy and healthy living is the theme of the Icelandic Pavilion at the 2010 World Expo Shanghai, reflecting the deep relationship Icelandic people have with the natural forces that forever shape our island and how we have learned to harvest its energy to improve our lives. We have collaborated with Beijing municipal government to build a terrestrial heat power plant. The project is still in the process.

- From Hreinn Pálsson



Visitors are enjoying the steam-cooling system at the Shanghai Expo Garden.

CFP Photo

By Chu Meng

All activities from the human perspective could be planned in such a way that they will support each other. That is to say, residents can avoid unnecessary

traffic, congestion, very dense housing, and live within close proximity to nature. This means having fresh water and air, parks and greenery amid buildings. We have lots of examples in our exhibition.

Its scale is on a human scale, not extremely visionary, so that ordinary people can understand our message.

- From Pertti Huitu



Peter Sams, director for Australia Pavilion

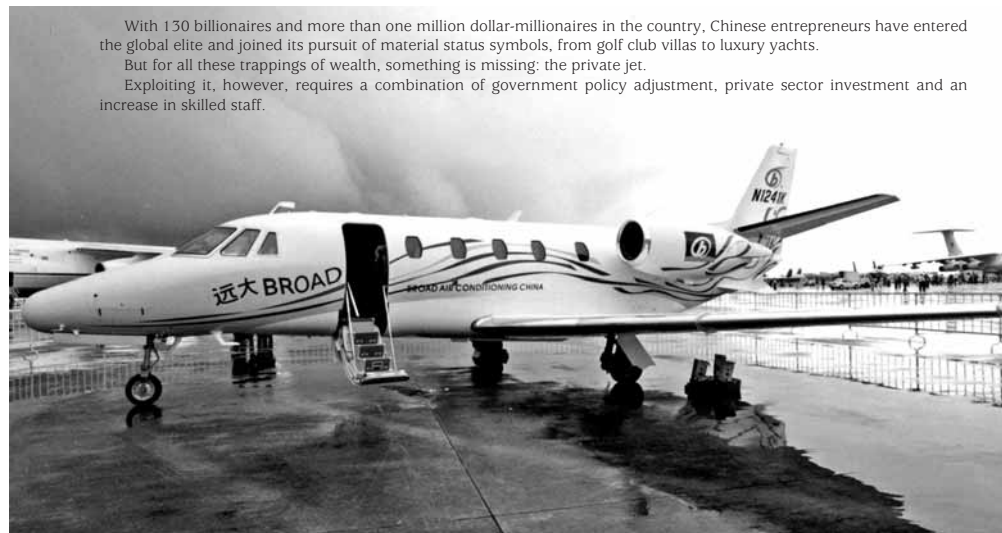
CFP Photo

Shanghai's crowd management experiences could also be a lesson for Beijing. At the Expo, our biggest goal was to not make people wait, so we did computer modeling for waiting and looking at exhibits, and tested it many times. The pavilion's designers predicted that 90 people would pass through the ramp inside the pavilion every minute, so each of the five exhibits was crafted to present information in a time-sensitive yet informative fashion.

- From Peter Sams

# Virgin private skies

## Global business-jet makers start sizing up Chinese market



As the government begins to ease airport restrictions, more people will be able to own private aircraft.

CFP Photo

### Business-jet market soars

The nation's growing billionaire club is attracting the attention of private jet makers across the world as tycoons are ready to reach for the sky.

As evidence, the world's top business aircraft manufacturers gathered in Hainan Province during a recent aviation exhibition to showcase their latest products.

Luxury lifestyle was the agenda during the Hainan Rendez-Vous, an event that brought together all of the most innovative eye-openers in the yachting, business-jet and luxury lifestyle industries.

The three-day event attracted more than 5,600 visitors, including 180 billionaires flown in from Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Xiamen, Chengdu, Hong Kong and Taipei.

They were introduced to a world of business aircraft through a dynamic showcase of some of the world's finest private jets, including Airbus A319, Boeing Business Jet 737-700, Bombardier Challenger 605,

Embraer Legacy 600 and Eurocopter EC120.

Among the 12 jets exhibited were the Airbus Business Jet and Boeing Business Jet, which were on display for the first time in China.

"After all the hype and false starts, China's private jet fleet is set to take off," said Delphine Lignieres, who organized the event.

Lignieres expected the sale of business jets in China would grow to 300 by the end of 2011. "With the growing enthusiasm from the Chinese rich, it has a good chance of meeting that forecast," he said.

According to statistics from the Shanghai Airport Authority (SAA), demand in the city's business aviation sector has been growing at 15 percent in recent years. More than 2,000 takeoffs and landings by business aircraft were handled last year.

The SAA, which operates the city's two major airports, is now improving its infrastructure to handle the rising demand.

### Global jet makers target China

Manufacturers from across the world reckon private aviation in China is set to take off in a big way.

Diamond Aircraft Industries, an Austria-based aircraft manufacturer, is one of the foreign jet makers eyeing the lucrative market. Diamond established a joint venture with Binzhou Dagao General Aviation in Shandong Province in 2005.

The number of millionaires in China is growing, and more and more Chinese will have a chance to own their own planes, said Michael Feinig, Diamond's managing director.

"It is not far from reality for wealthy Chinese people to be able to treat the private jet as a practical means of transport, creating an attractive market for us," Feinig was quoted by the 21st Century Business Herald as saying.

"There are more private jets in the greater Los Angeles area than in the whole of China at the moment, but we expect it to be fast-growing," said David Dixon,

Asia Pacific vice president for regional jet maker Bombardier Aerospace.

Canada's Bombardier is also vying with traditional rivals Embraer SA of Brazil and Gulfstream, a unit of General Dynamics, for a slice of the private jet market in China.

While still small, the number of Chinese able to afford and operate their own million-dollar aircraft is growing.

"More and more wealthy businessmen are interested in flying, and a lot of aviation clubs have been established especially for them," said Li Weijian, chairman of the Beijing PanAm International Aviation Academy.

Li's company is the first privately funded pilot-training school the General Administration of the Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) has authorized to conduct business in the country.

Statistics from CAAC indicate that around 300 people have qualified to fly light planes since CAAC gave the nod to issuing private licenses in August 1996.

(Agencies)

### Market watch

## Regulation adjustment needed for private jet market

By Huang Daohu

Though more people are able to afford their own aircraft, a lack of government policy support for the sector will hinder the private jet market, said Yang Xiaonong, founder of GALink Aviation, the first company in China that sells and manages jets and helicopters.

Yang referred to the regulations as the most critical issue related to the private aircraft industry's development.

Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) regulations still follow the old system of planned economy in certain management rules and concepts, Yang said.

Currently, the private purchase of aircrafts requires a number of permits and official approval.

Applying for flight is also no easy task, Yang said. Except for designated commercial routes, airspace over the Chinese mainland is under government control.

"Private jets need to file flight plans up to several days in advance to gain flight clearance," Yang said.

In addition to regulatory hurdles, he said a lack of infrastructure, qualified workers and an unfavorable tax regime also work against the industry.

Aircraft need constant main-

tenance, but only cities like Shanghai and Beijing have fixed bases to cater to private jets.

"Such service facilities do not come cheap, and without enough clients to satisfy utilization rates, investors will be reluctant to come forward. It is a dilemma," Yang said.

Besides, since private jets are mostly made outside of China, import duty becomes another problem, Yang said.

According to a recent Morgan Stanley report, import duties on private aircraft stand at six percent, while value added tax is a massive 17 percent.

Compared to the five percent tax total on commercial aircraft,

this is stark, Yang said.

However, Yang said he is optimistic about the future of the Chinese private airline industry, considering attitudes have changed rapidly over the past three years.

Major international brands such as Cessna, Gulfstream and Bombardier see potential and fight local operators for market share.

"In the 1990s, few people foresaw the huge popularity of cars in China or that it would become the biggest auto market," Yang said. "Perhaps in another 10 years, China will become the world's largest private aircraft market."

### Opinion

## From decoupling to the dark clouds of double dip

The country's first-quarter GDP growth rate, led by domestic investment and consumption, reached 11.9 percent, a standout in the global economy. The growth has led to a revitalization of the "decoupling theory" within the country's economic circles.

But the renewed turmoil in global financial markets, as well as the unsustainability of domestic investment growth, will reveal the lie of that pipe dream. The first quarter's high growth masks an increasing lack of consumer confidence, and the dark clouds of "double dip" are looming.

Economic rebound brought about by financial expansion will drop back to earlier positions if the turmoil in the financial markets continues to rage. Recently the markets, whether for stock, foreign exchange or gold, are repeating the September 2008 trend following the collapse of Lehman Brothers, with Lehman replaced by Greece and the private sector debt crisis replaced by one in the public sector.

The difference in the two kinds of debt crises is that crisis in the private sector can be addressed through expansion in the public sector by stimulating the economy, while a crisis in the public sector can only be dealt with through policy shrinkage – for example, cutting budget deficits – which has negative impacts on economies.

The appreciation of the US dollar is also becoming a headache for the Chinese economy. From September 2008 to March 2009, the dollar index rose more than 20 percent. During this period, even as the yuan stopped appreciating against the dollar, its effective exchange rate rose against the euro by 15 percent.

Since the European sovereign debt crisis at the end of December 2009, the dollar index has risen sharply, and so has the yuan. Just this year, the appreciation of the yuan against the euro has increased by more than 12 percent, by 4.7 percent from May 4 to 7 alone.

Yuan appreciation against the basket of currencies will have a direct impact on China's export market, particularly with China's largest trading partner, the EU, so China's recently established trade deficit will continue to grow.

Now, China has no room for expansion. As opposed to China's economic situation in 2009, the country's actual economic expansion has been very limited, whether in terms of infrastructure, industrial capacity, local governments' ability to repay debt or ability to expand bank credit.

Due to financial expansion – and particularly set against last year's low base – 2010, especially in the first half, will see a good growth figure. Any optimism, however, should be carefully guarded. The last storm was a huge one, but there are other storms ahead.

My conclusion is that China needs to lower its economic growth rate so as to bind monetary expansion and as a response to inflation, and to get real about real estate regulation.

— Xu Yisheng, economic commentator for Morning News



# 'Fake girls' caught on TV

By Wang Yu

The latest season of *Happy Boy*, a popular talent show produced by Hunan TV, shocked many after a contestant identified as female and dressed in a miniskirt turned out to be transsexual.

An audition video, which has spread online, shows a contestant in woman's clothes performing an original song. One of the three judges repeatedly interrupts the performance to question the contestant's sex, even suggesting a closer inspection of her body – which the person refused.

The singer eventually admits to being male, identifying himself as Liu Zhu, a 19-year-old composition major at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music.

Liu said he began dressing like a girl and putting on make-up in high school, which

his parents have come to accept. He has also learned to expertly imitate women's higher-pitched speaking and singing voice.

Liu has become a popular figure in the traditional media and on the Internet, earning the nickname "Zhu Jie," or "Sister Zhu," and gaining both fans and detractors. His supporters admire him for daring to challenge social conventions, while critics dismiss him as another product of media hype.

Liu was not the only contestant in this season of *Happy Boy* to wear a skirt, but he is the only one to make it to the final round.

"I was stunned by his performance. Unlike the other singers who dressed like a girl, that is really who he is," Hong Tao, the show's chief director, said. "Plus, Liu's voice is nice and he sings well, which got him into the finals."



Liu Zhu, a participant of the singing contest *Super Boy*, becomes this year's topic.

IC Photo

## Comment

### Owing to changes in fashion, social psyche

We are living in an era that no longer values masculinity. In the '80s, if a young man dressed like a woman, he would be laughed at or would feel embarrassed. But fashion changes all the time; people are tired of Rambo and want to see something different. From this perspective, what happened on the show is normal.

However, I think young men no longer have confidence or clear life goals, especially the post-'90s generation. They dress like women for protection, since women are more protected in society.

— He Yuxin, magazine editor

### Country opening and loosening up

China is really opening up and loosening up. I cannot imagine this happening 20 years ago – even 10 years ago. People have become more open-minded and accepting more non-traditional roles. If Liu was able to get published in major papers, then we should expect the Chinese people to readily accept more new ideas.

— Nathan Zhang, charity store owner

### Nothing but hype

Once this issue hits the mainstream, the TV station wins.

If you look back at similar shows created by Hunan TV, you will see one thing in common: a singer who triggers a nationwide debate during the auditions round. Last year there was Zeng Yike, who sang out of tune. Before her there was Li Yuchun (who won fans for her cross-dressing fashion). So I'm not that surprised to see transsexuals this time around. But I respect them, especially Liu Zhu, who can really sing. But you can never be a real star through a talent show, and you will discover that in the end only the TV station will win.

— Tony Liu, music promoter

### Honesty can gain respect

If a competition is open to all, including transsexuals, then people at the margins of society will begin to get the respect and support they deserve as human beings.

In the UK, people are very open; they hold nothing against cross-dressers or transsexuals. They embrace them as long as they are not taken advantage of or made to look like fools. If they think someone is pretending or lying to them, then they will feel aggrieved, angry and will lash out and condemn them.

— David Vaughan, British model in Beijing

## Shoes thrown at outspoken property developer

By Huang Daohen

Property tycoon Ren Zhiqiang "got the presidential treatment" on May 7 while addressing a real-estate forum in Dalian, Liaoning Province. Two dirty shoes were thrown at him by an irate audience member minutes after he began his speech.

At the time of the assault, Ren, president of Beijing's Huayuan Property Company, had just made remarks about the central government's recent policies aiming to cool the red-hot residential market.

Families are now buying luxury cars so they can afford high-priced properties, the billionaire said.

Ren made a clever dodge and quipped that he was getting the presidential treatment, referring to the experience of former US President George W. Bush in Iraq in 2008.

There were shouts of "Bravo!" – clearly not for Ren's avoiding

the shoes – but for the shoe-thrower who was later identified by local media as a 25-year-old Dalian resident.

The man, who declined to disclose his name, said he had to live with his parents because he could not afford to buy an apartment. He said he had already broken up with two girlfriends due to the difficulty of obtaining his own house.

The man said he attacked Ren because he was extremely angry with the soaring house prices and property developers like Ren.

The incident drew an immediate public response. Some defended Ren and his freedom to speak, but more supported the shoe-thrower.

This is not the first time that the outspoken Ren has made headlines. Last year, he said that young people should naturally not be able to afford their own homes and that those who could not afford a home in the city should return to their villages.

## Comment

### Same case in developed countries

I see why the man got mad and threw his shoes at Ren. Still, many of Ren's comments are worth discussing, especially the one about how young people should actually find it difficult to buy an apartment.

This is the same case in the US and other developed countries. Spain has a parallel experience: the rising prices of real estate, corruption in the industry and young people's difficulty buying an apartment are the No. 1 subjects of discussion.

— Alberto Alonso, counselor

### Unfortunate conflict

I think Ren has already explained the essence of why there is a problem with exorbitant housing prices in the country. It is unfortunate that there is a conflict of interest since the guy is a businessman and he makes his money from selling homes.

— Shi Kang, property agent

### Personal reflection needed

I've been struggling to make a life in the capital for years, and I finally have my

own house. Among my classmates, I am described as successful; indeed, I have surpassed many difficulties.

Nowadays, many graduates who didn't study hard are also not willing to work hard – yet they expect to afford a house after one or two years. That's not realistic. I think Ren Zhiqiang just tells the uncomfortable truth. Those who curse him should reflect on their behavior first.

— Joseph Li, IT engineer

### Cautious with property industry

As an overseas Chinese, I have always been proud of being Chinese and of China's rich history and culture. But it saddens me to see the property bubble developing in China, evident in the shoe-throwing incident. I have seen property bubbles in many other countries and the working class is always the victim. I hope China will be very cautious in handling the property industry.

— Samuel, Chinese-American



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# Opera director hopes to reach more viewers

By He Jianwei

Classic works influence generation after generation. This is the reason Francesca Zambello, a leading opera director from the US, keeps on recreating Bizet's *Carmen*.

Her version of the opera is showing at the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) through Monday, four years after staging it at the Royal Opera House in London to rave public and critical reviews.

Although the story takes place in the mid-19th century, Zambello said the character *Carmen* is much like contemporary, independent women who want control over their lives. *Carmen* also describes the never-ending conflict between men and women and proves that love transcends death.

"*Carmen* is a universal character. She could even be a worker at a tobacco factory in Hunan Province. The story talks about jealousy, murder, passion and love. The conflict in this piece can happen anywhere, anytime,"



Francesca Zambello Photo by Wang Xiaojing

Zambello said.

Since her debut at the Houston Grand Opera with Beethoven's *Fidelio* in 1984, Zambello has taken a special interest in making theater and opera more accessible to a wider audience. "What interests me most is bringing quality theater to the widest audience possible" by "adapting the best of the old to the realities of modern life," she said.

Zambello does not consider opera an elitist art form; she thinks performers only need to develop creative ways to attract more audiences.

As artistic director of Glimmerglass Opera, one of the US's most important opera festivals, she is always trying to offer something new to American audiences. "Who says we can watch opera only at night after dinner? Why don't we open our shows at five in the afternoon?"

But these are hard times for classical art. During a financial crisis, funding for the arts is usu-

ally the first thing to get slashed from national budgets. And if the public spends for entertainment, few will put their hard-earned money into opera.

China, however, has widened its space to develop the arts and has offered a destination to high-profile artists looking for appreciation.

The country has built several gorgeous theaters in recent years, like the Guangzhou Opera House and the NCPA. "To see a theater performance is important in people's lives. Theaters are like contemporary temples where people can celebrate," Zambello said.

In the NCPA's *Carmen*, 35 children are involved in the performance — actors whom Zambello considers the future of opera in China. "Maybe this is their first exposure to opera," she said, "but with 35 kids, their parents and grandparents, it is like throwing a pebble in a pond and watching the circle grow bigger and bigger."

Her next plan is to direct operas for families and children.

## Police hold law lecture for French expats

By Liang Meilan

The Municipal Public Security Bureau conducted a Chinese law lecture for expats Wednesday morning at the request of the French Chamber of Commerce.

The comprehensive introduction of national laws, given by officers with the bureau's Exit-Entry Administration Division, was the first of its kind between a foreign chamber of commerce and the police, with its new program of social administration.

"It is a way to better assist expats. This type of collaboration between the police and foreign organizations should become regular practice in light of the significance of explaining our laws to foreigners," said Su Qiang, director of the Exit-Entry Administration Division, who headed the event.

He said the bureau will also carry out this year a series of new measures to facilitate exit and entry procedures for foreigners.

Some 20 human resource managers and staff members from French-owned enterprises in Beijing attended the lecture, which was conducted in French and Chinese. Police officers discussed issues like visa application, residence registration, punishment for illegal residents and buying a house in China.

The speakers also talked about the procedure for registering foreign enterprises, employing foreign staff and payment regulations.

Participants were mainly concerned about the regulations surrounding business visas. An attendee asked what type of visa an intern with less than two years'

*The Nutcracker presented by the Ballet of National Theater in Prague at Meilanfang Grand Theater.*

Photo provided by Czech Embassy

work experience should apply for. She was told there is no specific visa for interns, but that an "F," or business, visa would be best for her situation.

Among foreign enterprises, a common violation is the dodging of the annual filing of registration. "It results in bringing down the enterprise's credibility and consequently causing trouble for its business," Su said.

"Though the laws and regulations explained in the lecture are frequently publicized, because of their importance it is necessary to discuss them in detail. For new laws, we will publicize them on our website bjgaj.gov.cn," Su said.

He said the bureau is hoping to conduct the same lecture for other foreign associations and institutions. "Today's lecture-by-request was well received, which meant it was effective and should be continued to help manage society better," Su said.

## Czech cultural festival opens in town

kovsky's *The Nutcracker*, presented by the Ballet of the National Theater in Prague. Despite a short history of six years, the dance company has already performed on Europe's premier stages under the leadership of its artistic director, Petr Zuska. Zuska, an expert in performances as varied as pantomimes, classical ballet and modern dance, combines new trends in dance with emotion, grace and energy.

The National Art Museum of China, meanwhile, is playing host to the festival's art exhibition "New Sensitivity," a collection of 22 glass sculptures created between the 1960s and '80s.

"A sculpture is a lens that magnifies infinity," said Jiri Strimbrny, cultural projects officer of the Czech Embassy. "Czech art forms a part of Europe's rich cultural tradition, and over the centuries, cathedrals, churches and castles have soared to the skies in Prague, displaying the grandeur of classical architecture."

To this day, these edifices are repositories of sculptural art."

The Czech cultural extravaganza is part of a cultural exchange program between China and the Eastern European nation. From October 2009 to this January, a Chinese culture festival was held in the Czech Republic.



By Chu Meng

The two-month Czech Culture Festival, featuring the country's famed ballets and sculptures, opened at Meilanfang Grand Theater Saturday. The event aims to showcase the brilliance of Czech culture and modern achievements as well as deepen artistic exchanges between the Czech Republic and China.

"A retrospect of our artistic achievements in the past decades can help give our young artists new impetus and provide Chinese artists with a new understanding of Czech art history and development," Czech Ambassador Libor Secka said at the opening ceremony.

The festival opened with Tchai-

# Dulwich College mothers raise funds to build village libraries

By Wang Yu

The mothers at Dulwich College International School of Beijing have raised 60,000 yuan to help a local women's NGO build a library in two villages.

Louise Knobel, whose child is enrolled at Dulwich, rallied other mothers to organize a charity party and sale on March 8 to raise money for Beijing Cultural Development Center for Rural Women.

"Women play an important role in the family," said Knobel, who lived in South Africa before moving to Beijing with her family. "It's easy for those who live in the city to catch up with changes in the world. But we've learned that in rural areas it's still hard. The libraries will help rural women get involved and see what's going on outside the villages."

The NGO Rural Women, founded by Wu Qing, a leading expert on women's rights in China, aims to fill the knowledge gap between women in urban and rural areas and has already built 38 libraries across the country.

Wu did a survey of rural Beijing areas to choose the library sites together with Nathan Zhang, owner of the second-hand shop Brand Nü.

"I started my charity store after meeting Professor Wu. My wife has also attended her lectures and admires what she has done. It was she who introduced to me the living conditions of rural women," said Zhang, who donates part of Brand Nü's profits to Rural Women and who bridged the NGO with Dulwich College.

The survey's outcome awarded the libraries to Huangkan Village in Huairou District and Yingfang Village in Miyun District.

"First, we chose nearby villages because it will be easier for the (Dulwich) mothers to go and see how their money is being used. This will also help build long-term relationships between rural women and foreign mothers. Second, we found women leaders in those two villages who can carry out our project efficiently," said Wu, a professor at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Xi Jianghong, a resident of Huangkan Village, said, "Ours won't be a simple library. It will also be an activity center for village women. Though the lifestyle of women in the city has changed a lot, those in rural areas still do not have access to books or other entertainment. With the library, I can help more women around me catch up with the changing times."

Rural Women hopes to build another 40 libraries throughout China by the end of the year.



Nathan Zhang (middle), owner of second-hand shop Brand Nü, shares his experience of doing charity work with the mothers at Dulwich College International School of Beijing.  
Photo by Song Nannan

## Satir family therapy pioneer holds workshops in town

By Liang Meilan

Beijingers can now experience Satir Therapy, one of the world's most popular methods of family therapy, at its center in town. The Satir Educational Consulting Center also recently organized workshops for both psychiatrists and troubled families.

The workshops, conducted by world-renowned Satir psychotherapist John Banmen, discussed how to build parent-child relationships and the models for reconstructing a family.

"Doctor Banmen is considered the world's top expert in Satir Therapy and continued to develop the therapy method after the death of Virginia Satir," said the center's director, Guo Xiaojie. Virginia Satir developed Satir Therapy in the US in the 1950s.

The Family Reconstruction Workshops, held April 1 to 4, each had around 40 participants, many of whom gave the



Participants to a Satir family therapy workshop

Photo provided by Guo Xiaojie

center positive feedback, Guo said. "We're happy most of them were able to follow the teacher's instructions and translate theory into practice to solve family problems," she said. The center is planning to hold another

workshop June 8 and 9.

Unlike most American psychotherapy that emphasize behaviorism, Satir Therapy focuses on feelings of compassion in interpersonal relationships. "Satir was the most vocal

proponent of the importance of love and nurturing in emotional healing," Guo said.

"The essence of Satir Therapy is solving problems by looking at family relationships comprehensively, discovering what's wrong on each side and then figuring out proper ways to communicate," she said.

The therapy follows a systematic perspective. "What counts is not the wrong behavior itself but the wrong experience that generates the wrong act. The most effective way to resolve it is to properly transform the negative experience," Guo said.

She compares Satir to the doctrine of the Golden Mean. "This is why Satir Therapy has found firm ground in Europe and Asia, especially in China," she said.

For more information, call the Satir Educational Consulting Center at 8859 2595 or visit satiredu.com.

## Event

### Music and movement for toddlers and parents

3e International School is organizing a weekly gathering for toddlers 12 to 36 months old and their parents. The event will give babies an opportunity to discover sound and rhythm and to explore how the body works as parents dance, climb, jump and roll. This is also a good place to meet friends and share ideas on child rearing.

Where: 3e International, 9-1 Jiangtai Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 14-28, every Friday, 10:30-11:30 am

Tel: 6473 3344

Cost: 80 yuan per session for toddler and one parent

### Free orthodontics workshop

IDC Dental Clinic is holding an hour-long free workshop, "Orthodontics for You and Your Family," to be run by the clinic's dental hygienist, Patrice Christie. Its resident orthodontists, Jaclyn Dam-Laute and Lily Ouyang, will be present to answer questions on the diagnosis and treatment of orthodontic patients. There will also be educational activities to make children's first dental visit a pleasant and enjoyable one.

Where: IDC Dental Clinic, Room 208, Building B, Winterless Center, Xidawang Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 15, 10 am

Tel: 6538 8111

Cost: Free

### Parents and kids book reading

M Bar is sponsoring a book reading for parents and children ages 3 to 10, where they will hear hilarious stories read by parents and children's book editors. Two lucky participants will receive a 500-yuan dining voucher from Sofitel, while each child will get a swimming voucher from Sofitel.

Where: M Bar, 6/F Sofitel Hotel, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 16, 10:30 am - noon

Tel: 6528 1840

Cost: Free

### Reporting on International Conflict and Crisis

The Foreign Correspondent's Club of China is sponsoring a lecture on one of the hardest jobs for reporters - covering international conflict and crisis. Two generations of China-based reporters for the *New York Times* - Edward Wong and Edward Gargan - will talk about their experiences reporting in Iraq, Afghanistan and other crisis zones.

Where: Auditorium of Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 16, 11 am - 12:30 pm

Tel: 6438 6675

Cost: Free

(By Liang Meilan)



# Paragliding clubs ready for summer peak season

By Liang Meilan

Paragliding fans in many parts of the world are looking forward to summer – the sport's peak season. Gliding is relatively unknown in Beijing, but there are two clubs in town ready to assist the courageous and adventurous.

The language barrier is the biggest detriment to expats who engage in sports like paragliding, which requires technical training and instructions. Thankfully, Flying-man Club and Super-wing Paragliding Club have English-speaking trainers and offer translation services.

Flying-man Club, founded in the 1990s, is the biggest aerial sports club in the country. "It helped introduce and improve gliding in China and is known for its gliding events," Li Rui, the club's PR officer, said.

"What distinguishes it from other clubs is that it's the only one that owns a gliding base," she said.

That base is on the north bank of the Ming Tombs Reservoir in Changping District, where the club organizes weekly entertainment activities and competitions if the weather is good. "Both professional gliders and the inexperienced can come have fun or receive training," Li said.

"Foreigners will find here the world's top gliding products since we're a distributor for many Euro-

pean brands," Li said.

Becoming a club member is easy: just purchase any equipment from the club. "Students and members do not need to pay the annual fee. They can enjoy the use of the base and its facilities for free," Li said.

Super-wing Paragliding Club, meanwhile, is known for its summertime Nadaihe Golden Coast Tour, held between June and September. Those who are interested in joining should register at least a week before the event and undergo basic training, said Xu Meiyuan, the club's coach.

"We offer professional training and issue certificates that are recognized internationally," he said, adding that many of their instructors are award-winning gliders.

The club also sells gliding equipment on its website, superwing.com.cn. "The store has hundreds of equipments, ranging from accessories such as carabiners to paragliders for different skill levels," Xu said.

## Flying-man Club

Where: Room 2011, Building A, Wantong Building, 2 Fuchengmen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District  
Tel: 400 8180 882

## Super-wing Paragliding Club

Where: Room 2001, Rongshangju, 2 Wudaokou, Zhichun Lu, Haidian District  
Tel: 5277 3142



Beijing's gliding clubs have professional gliders and coaches.  
Photo provided by Flying-man club

# Tongzhou to start canal boat tours in June

By Zhao Hongyi

Tongzhou District will open a new park and begin offering canal boat tours in June, sources from the real-estate industry said.

"We're constructing a park along the canal, which will open to the public at the same time as the canal rides," said Shen Yanzhong, general manager of New Town Properties Management.

The canal boat rides will be offered near the Tongzhou Canal Culture Plaza, which opened before the Beijing Olympics and have seen huge crowds since weather warmed at the beginning of the month.

"Summer is coming and we want to rent a boat to float down the canal and cool down," a Tongzhou resident said, "but we were told we have to wait another month."

One reason for the wait is that



A dock along Tongzhou Canal

CFP Photo

the canal's water level is still low, but rains and thunderstorms in spring and summer should take care of the problem. For now, only a few tourist groups are allowed to

go boating down the canal.

Shen of New Town Properties said the riverbank park will be twice the length of the route of tourist boats and will not charge

admission to provide Beijingers and tourists more green respites within the capital.

Tongzhou used to be a major dock of the Great Canal that ran through Hebei, Tianjin, Shandong, Jiangsu, Shanghai and Zhejiang. It was called China's "golden route" as it carried rice and other staples from the south to the capital.

The Great Canal lost its economic significance in the 19th century with the construction of railways, highways and the development of air transportation.

But at the start of the new millennium, the municipal government and residents of Tongzhou began plans to rehabilitate the canal and open it to tourists.

Tongzhou District, located in east Beijing, was an important defense post in ancient times.

# Maizidian Ping-Pong Association seeks expat members

By Zhao Hongyi

The newly organized Maizidian Ping-Pong Association is recruiting members, particularly foreign players. The group, managed by the Maizidian community in Chaoyang District, was established April 24 and currently has 30 members.

"We hope more players will join us so we can strengthen our

roster and win upcoming competitions," Zhang Yongxin, Maizidian's director of community management, said.

The association is inviting foreign players to promote cultural understanding and exchanges between locals and expats, said Tang Jianmin, director of the community's service center.

"We'll provide the venue and facilities for free," he said, adding that the center will ensure the players' safety and security.

The association is now preparing for the 4th Harmony Cup, to be held later this month.

Maizidian, together with Wangjing, Wudaokou, Jingsong and Xueyuanlu, hosts one of the

city's biggest expat communities. It is also among the first to involve its foreign residents in community-service activities like neighborhood guard duties, garbage sorting and charity services.

It regularly organizes community events for both locals and expats, like calligraphy exhibitions, taichilessons, choral performances,

tree-planting and English and Korean classes, in response to the municipal government's call for professionally run residential communities that offer sufficient cultural and sporting activities.

To professionalize their management, many communities are recruiting university graduates and post-graduates.

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I came to Beijing recently and really want to improve my Chinese. I'm looking for a comprehensive Chinese-English dictionary for my iPod Touch but there are just too many on the App-store to sort through. Can you recommend one that is fairly accurate and will allow me to type in English, Chinese characters and pinyin?

We recommend a translation software called KTdict+ C-E that you can easily find on [itunes.apple.com](http://itunes.apple.com). It provides a comprehensive, fast and easy-to-use Chinese to English dictionary combined with a powerful flash-card trainer. It incorporates 70,000 entries from the renowned CC-CEDICT dictionary. Best of all, no Internet connection is required to access the dictionary.

I recently purchased a car in Beijing and I'm looking to have some detailing done on the body. Can you recommend a place known for meticulous work?

For simple detailing you can go to your car brand's 4S (full service) shop, but these places usually charge more than private businesses. If design choice is a major consideration, we suggest going to Yuefu, a top car-repair and detailing shop in town with 30,000 members. It is located on Xiaoguan Xi Jie, Chaoyang District, Tel. 6206 2668. The service there should be affordable.

Where can I get Cajon drums? I'm new to Beijing and didn't bring my instrument with me because I thought it would be easy to find here. I've already tried a number of music stores with no luck.

Cajon, or *muxianggu*, is an instrument that's quite rare in China. Few people play it here, but fortunately, we found a drum shop in town that sells it: Fengdanbailu Musical Instruments, located at 50-5 Gulou Dong Dajie, Chaoyang District. The store also sells bongo drums and darabuka, and can import specific instruments for customers. Call 6405 8619 for more information.

(By Liang Meilan)

By Wang Yu

It is a truth universally acknowledged that people in pursuit of a comfortable life in China must live in Chengdu.

Meanwhile, the city is also a paradise for musicians who want to leave daily routines aside and focus solely on music.

It does not mean that the scene in Chengdu is bigger – quite the contrary, it is much smaller than what we have in Beijing. But sometimes being idle is an essential condition for creating melodies, which is hard for people in a big city surrounded by the fast and tense pace of everyday life. Moreover, Chengdu has the capacity to accommodate a variety of cultures. Audiences cheer from the bottom of their hearts for every artist who works hard on stage, even if they have never heard the music before.

To some people, Chengdu has the best music scene they have ever experienced.

**I**t is in a typical hot-pot restaurant in Chengdu near Sichuan University that Gong Heling, guitarist of the local band Falling Cookies, has just put down his third bottle of beer. He is glad to learn that his guest has suddenly fallen in love with the food, which people here can never live without.

Tomorrow his band will perform on the Sky

Stage of this year's Zebra Music Festival in Chengdu. However, no pre-show rehearsal has been planned because the rocker thinks it is useless.

"I'm not that excited about the gig, I don't know why," Gong says. "I just don't want to be on stage. It's laziness, maybe."

But he isn't reluctant to perform on May 1, when he will share the stage with the band's other four members. The band is similar to Beijing groups like Queen Sea Big Shark or Bigger Bang – employing a dance rhythm, fuzzy garage guitar sound and a charming female lead singer. During shows, Falling Cookies' music will quickly cheer up the audiences, which jump, dance and make noise every time the singer asks them to. They react even when Gong changes the tone of his guitar.

"When you're on stage, things are different,"

Gong says. "The desire to show off in front of the audience pushes you to play your best."

Falling Cookies was formed as a college band in 2008. Born in Leshan, Sichuan Province, Gong went to Chengdu to study. The other four members played together during the first rehearsals and gigs, but they were not initially satisfied with their perfor-

mance. Eventually they asked Gong to become the band's songwriter.

Falling Cookies soon established its name in the local music scene, though Gong still thinks the band's quality is far from ideal. The guitarist runs his own guitar shop, which is located opposite to the Sichuan Conservatory of Music, and lives in an apartment with his girlfriend on the upper

floor of the building. He works in the shop during the day and rehearses with the band at least twice a week. The members have just rented a room and decorated it as their rehearsal room.

It is a life that most musicians in Beijing envy. As the early generation of rockers fade into the history books, their old lifestyles become somewhat of an anachronism. Few can bear the poor life while sustained only by the dream of becoming a rock star, especially in a city

like Beijing that is full of temptations.

"Living cost here is much lower – you can live pretty good with an income of 2,000 yuan a month – which lets you focus on music," Gong says about Chengdu. "Of course, the shop adds pressure on me, but I think it is still better than living in a big city. On the other hand, though Chengdu is famous for its rockers, in the country there are fewer than 10 bands that make original music and perform regularly in the city. Therefore, the scene is as simple as the relationships between the musicians."

Gong's shop is sponsoring Sky Stage's second stage this year with drum kits, amplifiers and other sound equipment. To watch over his property, Gong has to stand backstage during the entire festival, May

1 to 3. Unlike the secured areas backstage, here it is more like the clubs and fans can sit together, drink and enjoy the big party.

Mosaic, another band in Chengdu, the main stage and then heads to the club to celebrate. Soon they will get on the road to play at MIDI Festival. As the band's popularity grows, they will move to reach a higher level in their career.

"Chengdu is our hometown and Zhuo Yue, the band's guitarist, 'bu' and learn more in Beijing."

The audiences in Chengdu may be a part of the scene. Unlike festivals in Beijing, Chengdu's rock venue, Poly Park, is in the downtown. As Chengdu does not have a subway, fans have to take the bus to the venue. The roads outside become impractical.

On the second night, it rains and an artist finishes his performance on the main stage. However, many fans linger in the backstage, where DJs play electro music dance outside the camping area. Even though few of them are fans, it is a kind of music.

"It is hard to capture the audience with a camera," says Dummy, a cameraman. "But I can really feel that they are what we have in Beijing. It seems like everything on stage."

"That's the capacity of the audience. Laoma, guitarist of Mr. Chelonian, music and accept every kind of song feel good when listening. It's not only for rockers, but also common people."

"There are also musicians who have regular jobs here. They live off income





# Chengdu

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gigs. In Chengdu, you can play your own songs in a promotional event in front of a shopping mall, which is OK for the organizer. They won't force you to copy pop songs. That, in a sense, keeps the bands alive."

Zhu Yanfeng, a music promoter from Beijing, brings Exile Parade, a British band, to the festival. The band sounds like Oasis with its typical British rock style. They have to play before Soda Green, a pop band from Taiwan that has many fans on the mainland. The problem is the timing of the band's appearance. Ideally it would be after Soda Green, but Zhu is afraid no one will stay after the pop stars have performed.

"Look at these fans, they have waited here for four hours, all they want are the pop stars," Zhu says.

It rains again before Exile Parade goes on stage, and they are asked to cut some songs to shorten the show due to the bad weather. As a young band that formed in 2006, it is the biggest stage the musicians have ever played on. They are nervous at first. But after two songs, they are back to who they are.

The audiences have never heard their music -- they even shout Soda Green's name before the British boys get on stage -- but they start to cheer for Exile Parade from the first note. They make noise every time a song reaches its peak with the distortion guitar riff. It all happens in the rain, with few of them in raincoats.

Exile Parade's CDs are sold out soon after their performance. On the bus back to the hotel, the members are still giddy about their unexpected success.

At the second stage, all the performances are finished. Gong is packing his equipment back into his shop. Though he does not want to move to Beijing, Falling Cookies hopes to play a gig here sometime to experience something different and something new.

Israel band  
Asaf Avidan  
& the Mojo



Chuyi, singer of Falling Cookies (above)  
and Gong Heling



British band  
Exile Parade



Xia Ying,  
lead  
singer of  
Mosaic



# Shanghai through lenses

By He Jianwei

A picture speaks louder than words.

Journalist Liu Heung Shing and art critic Karen Smith prove it in their latest book, *Shanghai: A History in Photographs, 1842-Today*. They have spent four years collecting more than 400 photos from municipal archives, libraries, private collections, newspapers, photo agencies and Chinese and Western photographers. The book's Chinese version was published last month by World Publishing Corporation, and Penguin released the English edition this month.

Four years ago, the municipal government invited Liu and Smith to make an exhibition at the Shanghai Pavilion during World Expo 2010 to showcase the metropolis. As American writer Pearl Buck once said, "If you want to understand today, you have to research yesterday," so Liu and Smith decided to see how Shanghai has been shaped into a cosmopolitan city.

The book is a visual history telling the story of modern China as seen through Shanghai. With the signing of the Treaty of Nanking between the UK and Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) at the end of the Opium Wars in 1842, Shanghai and four other port cities were opened to foreign trade, attracting many Western entrepreneurs and merchants who helped the fishing village become a metropolis overnight. In *All About Shanghai and Environs*, regarded as the first guidebook published in 1934, the city was praised as the Paris and New York of the East.

Because they have been commissioned by the Shanghai Pavilion, Liu and Smith got access to the Shanghai Municipal Archives, the Shanghai Library and Shanghai Art Museum.

*Shanghai* includes many unpublished photos, one of which is by a British entrepreneur, William Turner, who fascinated Smith. The picture is a scene of Shanghai life in the early 1900s: Turner's servants with his pet dog. Turner's granddaughter said family legend has it that he made a pinhole camera from a cigarette box.

Smith thinks many photos from that time show local people in a condescending manner, but in this photo, the relation between master and servant changes into photographer and subject.

Over the past 170 years, Shanghai has witnessed incredible historic moments, including the establishment of foreign concessions, Japanese invasions, a civil war, Cultural Revolution and economic reforms. They have all played their part in sculpting today's Shanghai.

Many famous photographers have recorded many of these historical moments, including French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson, who is regarded as the father of modern photojournalism.

He covered the last six months of the Kuomintang administration and the first six months of the People's Republic of China. The book also includes his shot of Shanghaiese queuing to change money during a 1948 financial panic.

It is interesting that the book begins and ends on wheels – a photo of driving a minicar in the 1950s and of driving a luxury car in 2010.

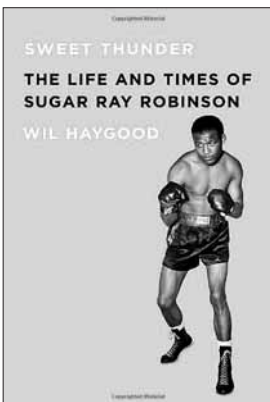
The cover is a photo from the 1950s of a four-member family driving a minicar. And in the last photo by Liu in 2010, two fashionable young businesswomen cruise in a Mercedes convertible, top down, amid the skyscrapers of Shanghai's Pudong financial district.



**Shanghai: A History in Photographs, 1842-Today**

By Liu Heung Shing and Karen Smith, 504pp, World Publishing Corporation, 298 yuan

## The prizefighter who takes culture into the ring



**Sweet Thunder: The Life and Times of Sugar Ray Robinson**  
By Wil Haygood, 480pp, Knopf, \$27.95

By Charles Zhu

Wil Haygood, a staff writer for *The Washington Post*, has given readers the sweet as well as the seamy side of the life of Ray Robinson, the greatest prizefighter in American history. It is more than a simple chronicle of a sports career; it is a book about the rise of urban African-Americans in the 20th century.

Robinson was born in Detroit in 1921 as Walker Smith Jr. Robinson was the name he borrowed to fill in for a fighter with that name, and it lasted a lifetime. A sportswriter later added "Sugar."

His parents divorced when he was very young. He grew up without a father at home. Eventually, his mother brought the boy and his two sisters to New York by bus. They stayed in a dump in midtown Manhattan and the boy earned pocket change by tap dancing and jitterbugging for strangers in Times Square. Then they found a place in Harlem.

"But there existed two Harlems,"

Haygood writes. "In one Harlem there were poetry readings and social teas; there were gatherings that featured notable speakers who talked about national affairs and the doings they were privy to in the Roosevelt White House." The Smiths lived in the other Harlem, "a rough place, a lower-class enclave of broken families, of flophouses and boardinghouses. Of racketeers and gangsters, of big crime and petty crime."

In Harlem, a man named George Gainford was helping to start a boxing club. In the club, Gainford began to shape him as a fighter and a man. The boy was fairly talented at learning the moves, fast punches and the way to anticipate what the other guy might do. He was being groomed to become a real fighter who had the ability to endure pain in order to inflict it.

Robinson won Golden Gloves titles in 1939 and 1940 and was undefeated over 40 fights as a welterweight (147 pounds). In 1947, he killed Jimmy Doyle

in the ring with a punch to the chin. Robinson eventually succumbed to the tough Jake LaMotta in a brutal series of six fights in 1943.

Robinson had a habit of carrying an old Victoria record player and a stack of records around with him on the road to the ring. Many jazz players, such as Miles Davis, Billy Eckstine and Dizzy Gillespie, were his friends. Haygood writes, Sugar Ray "was the first prizefighter to take culture – music and grace and dance – into the ring with him."

However, Robinson was not as good a father, and he allegedly beat one of his wives. He had few male friends. He was described as "a brooding genius, a darkly dedicated soul who walks in a lonely majesty, a prophet without honor, an artist whom nobody, but nobody, understands."

He spent his final lonely years with his third wife in Los Angeles. He died of heart failure at the age of 67, probably due to too many hits outside the ring.

## Trends Lounge book listing

Located in The Place, Trends Lounge is a bookstore and cafe featuring a wide selection of international art, design and architecture books.

**China Illustrated: Western Views of the Middle Kingdom**  
By Arthur Hacker, 288pp, Tuttle Publishing, 420 yuan

This illustrated social history highlights the lives and lifestyles of the merchants, mercenaries, missionaries, adventurers and refugees who came to China during the period from the mid-16th century to the beginning of World War II, set against the backdrop of China's great cities and

the ancient culture of its people.

**Cecily Brown**  
By Dore Ashton, 264pp, Rizzoli, 530 yuan

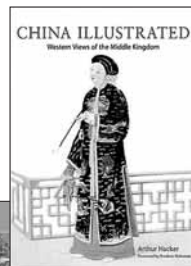
Cecily Brown creates lush, visceral canvases based on a combination of figuration and abstraction. Her technical proficiency has earned her comparisons to Lucian Freud, Willem de Kooning and Francis Bacon, yet it is her unique ability to convey the pleasurable and fleeting aspects of sensation that drive her work.

**Chinese Art: A Guide to Motifs and Visual Imagery**  
By Patricia Bjaaland Welch,

290pp, Tuttle Publishing, 420 yuan

A guide to the meanings behind the hundreds of common motifs and symbols found in all forms of Chinese art. A thorough examination of the diverse usage of natural symbols, colors, numbers, inanimate items and personages, this book communicates the deeper messages to be found in Chinese decorative art.

(By He Jianwei)



**CHINESE ART**  
A Guide to Motifs and Visual Imagery





# Running away from Beijing

By Wang Yu

Beijing is a city of dreams.

Every day we see people from every corner of China come to this city to develop a new career, a new life or a new love. Some of them find success, but most who don't would rather stay anyway because the scene is bigger and offers more opportunities for a brighter future. Even as the streets become more and more crowded, as the city grows more monstrous in its chaos, they think, We cannot just leave behind everything we have been fighting for.

However, there are those who have the courage to make the decision to go. They leave not because of the high cost of living or the bad traffic or the failures. It is simply time to experience another life and another aspect of the country that is not available in the capital.

## The life-changing trip

"I'm here because I was tired of the life in Beijing," says Daniel Li, a former IT engineer in Beijing who has just moved to Chengdu. "To me, it has nothing to do with the price of housing, the condition of the air or those other ordinary reasons you read about in the papers. I'm still young, and you have to experience more before you are too old or bound by a family."

Li made his decision three months after a business trip to Chengdu. It was his first time in this southwestern city, and the lifestyle of the people there stunned him. The city's pace is slow, the food is nice and the ladies truly do possess a different sort of beauty compared with those in Beijing. Chengdu lacks sunshine, but once the sun emerges from the clouds, people will leave their jobs behind – no matter how important it is – to enjoy the good weather.

"So I started to think about the life that I lived in Beijing," Li says. "It was busy, the city is full of temptations and desires. It was happy, too – I had friends in Beijing, the nightlife is charming – but the most important thing is that I had gotten used to the conditions. People are always lazy to change."

But eventually, Li sold his apartment in Beijing and moved with his girlfriend. With his work experience, he found a new job easily. Though the income is not as much as it used to be, living expenses in Chengdu are also lower.

"It was a rush of blood to the head at the beginning," Li says. "But I never knew the joy of changing until the plane landed. Maybe I will move to another place in the future."

Lisa Liang is a Chinese-American who went to Beijing in 2007 because she wanted to experience the Olympics. She worked as a music editor for an English-language magazine and soon fit into the scene. At the end of last year she moved to Dali, Yunnan Province.

Liang went to Dali on holiday a month or so before she left her job. Living in Beijing was a great experience, and working at a magazine was like a dream come true for her. But after a certain point she felt very confined, in both her career and her life.

Liang felt that she was seeing the same things, writing the same articles, meeting the same kind of people and having the same conversations over and over. Her Chinese at that point had already



gotten to a level that was considered very good in Beijing. But Liang discovered when she got to Dali that in fact it wasn't good at all. Beijing has so many foreigners that it's easy not to have to speak Chinese, or you only have to speak a limited amount to get by.

"I came to Dali and saw how limited my Chinese was, and also how little about China I really understood," Liang says. "And at that point, I decided I had pretty much gained everything I wanted to from Beijing, and that it was time to find a new challenge."

## A new home

When Liang came to Dali for the first time, she was quite in a state of confusion. She was just about to leave her job without another job lined up, she was somewhat disillusioned with the magazine business, she wasn't sure if she wanted to stay in Beijing or move to Shanghai or

even back to the States.

Moreover, a very close friend in Beijing had just passed away. That was the first time that Liang had someone close to her die, and it was also the first time she actually watched someone in the process of dying.

"That experience allowed me to see clearly for the first time how limited a lifetime was, and how time lost was something that could never be gained back," she says. "When I got to Dali, I wasn't sure about anything except that I didn't want to waste any more time."

It turned out that Yunnan is a completely different side of China that Liang had never seen nor thought existed.

Now she lives in a garden house with a courtyard and patio, with lots of fresh air and sunshine and a clear view of the mountains and lake. When she first came to Dali, Liang focused on rebuilding her website and archiving all

her work from the past two years, which she never had time to do in Beijing. The website contains photos she took, music she made and articles she wrote. Liang also writes for magazines and books, and does translation work whenever possible.

"You don't have to worry about cars, you can get anywhere by walking, and every day the sky is clear, the clouds are beautiful and the mountains are humbling," Liang says. "The landscape is so majestic, and as a person, you feel extremely small. It gives you an appreciation of how extremely insignificant you are, standing next to these grand mountains and giant, roving clouds. Ironically, that feeling of insignificance made me value life even more. Before, when I was living in Beijing, I felt all the time that I was working and saving up for the future. Now, I live for the present. I live for now."

Guo Shuo, lead singer of local band Convenient Store and owner of a creative store, Jiong Box, is now also living in Chengdu. Before he settled down, he was always on tour. His new branch of Jiong Box was opened at Kuangzhai Xiangzi – one of the most popular streets in Chengdu, like Nan Luoguxiang of Beijing. He thinks this city is actually not as lazy as people usually assume.

"Now, every day is still new to me," Li says. "Here is a city that waits for you to explore it. During the weekends, I make a plan to walk to new areas, looking for new stores, buildings, restaurants and people. When the city's layout becomes clearer, you also become a new part of it."

## The good old days

Although Beijing seems less comfortable by comparison with these places, there is still something identifiable and irreplaceable about the city.

Here you have to be 100 percent aware of all things going on around you all the time, and it can be tremendously exhausting after a while. Also, it is the national capital, and people can definitely feel an unspoken tension in the air because of that.

"But Beijing is a really exciting place to be," Liang says. "There are so many things happening there all the time, really groundbreaking and innovative ideas floating around constantly."

As the country's center, Beijing is the best place for a person to develop his career. Daniel Li was successful in his job, and the crucial thing is that he had an apartment in Beijing. Although it was a small one, it was enough for him to buy a new one in Chengdu in a central community, plus a car.

Li was born in 1982 and is already 28. It is not an age for chasing adventure. He needs a steady life even if he wants to have some changes in life and that is what he is doing in Chengdu.

In the end, you have to lose some to gain some.

"I do miss Beijing," Liang says. "I miss my friends there, I miss the different kinds of food you can have there, I miss the energy, the feeling that you're always on the verge of something, and most of all, I miss the music, going to concerts and being able to catch some of my favorite bands. I think every place I've lived in has a place in my heart. For the time being, my heart belongs to Yunnan, and Dali is where I feel at home."

By Chu Meng

One of the most popular trends in home decoration is "seasonal decoration," which means exactly what it says: changing decorations every season, or four times a year!

Most people cannot afford to replace their decor every three months – but it's possible to add a few new pieces. If you think this plan suits your personality, then summer is the best time to start getting busy – a season of bright colors, boundless energy and natural wonders.

Below we introduce some summer gems that can quickly change the look and feel of a room. Now all you need to summon up is dedication, along with some creative inspiration.



A white flower pot from KODO, 78 yuan

# Home decorations for summer



Traditional porcelain fishbowl with electronic filtration system, 2,999 yuan  
Photo by Chu Meng

## Today's porcelain fishbowl

Our first pick is Quintessence's porcelain fishbowl, which combines the character of traditional Chinese handicrafts with an electronic filtration system.

The store is owned by Wang Ruili, 50, a porcelain fishbowl collector for the past three decades. She opened the store in 2008 after meeting an elderly craftsman from Jingdezhen, the home of China's most treasured porcelain, who helped her design Quintessence's signature fishbowl. It was patented in 2009.

"One of the main disadvantages of keeping fish in a traditional, drum-shaped porcelain fishbowl is that it has no filtration system. This limits how many fish – no matter how small – can be kept in the bowl," Wang said.

"Owners also have to regularly change the water, which is time-consuming and inconvenient for children and office workers," she said.

Quintessence's fishbowl has a water drain at the bottom – just like a sink – but attached with a filter at the bottom and a carp-shaped filling pipe at the top, from where filtered water flows into the bowl again. What sets this fishbowl apart from the rest, however, are the decorations on its body, painted by Jingdezhen craftsmen. "No two of our fishbowls are alike," Wang said.

Wang suggests putting in your porcelain fishbowl Chinese goldfish, especially ones with blood-red popped-out eyes and flowing double-tail fins. "These sorts of fish are the most beautiful when looked at from above a traditional Chinese fishbowl," she said.

### Quintessence

Where: Booth 9, West aisle, Laitai Flower Market, Chaoyang District

Open: Monday – Thursday, 9 am – 6 pm; Friday – Sun, 9 am – 6:30 pm

Tel: 13601233181



Flower vases in different sizes, 199 to 499 yuan

Photos provided by Lifiniti

## Designer vases

Nothing brightens up a house more than flowers, especially if placed in an elegant vase.

For this mission, look no further than Lifiniti, one of the most popular stores in Laitai Flower Market and which specializes in flower-shaped vases.

"Even if the vases are empty, they stand alone as decorations. They are works of art with charm and elegance," said Rosita Liu, 32, the owner and vase designer.

Liu attended university in England where she studied interior design, then returned to her native Beijing to open Lifiniti in 2004. "I design most of our products," she said. "I also offer tailor-made furnishing designs according to my customers' requirement. Firstly I have to know the general style of the customer's house. Then through talking, I can get a sense of their personality. Only a design which can both go well with other furniture and hold the spirit of the houseowner is the best."

She said "greening" a home is a timeless decoration technique, and vases are an ideal implement. She recommended white ceramic hollowed-out vases for the summer, oval vases ideal for African daisies, camelias or gardenias. They come in



three sizes.

Another house specialty is glass and aluminum vases in candy colors. This series of vases feature designs of fantasy blossoms with an Indian flavor. Each vase can be separated into two, and the bottom half can be used as a candleholder.

"It matches Indian-style home decorations and furnishings," Liu said, adding that the vase metals will tarnish with time but can be cleaned using regular metal polish.

The store also offers Western vases made of red or black leather and vases with abstract designs made of algae clay. The vases cost 98 to 498 yuan.

### Lifiniti

Where: 2nd aisle on the west, 1/F Laitai Flower Market, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 5 pm

Tel: 6465 1733, 8668 8355

Open: Monday – Thursday, 9 am – 6 pm; Friday – Sunday, 9 am – 6:30 pm



Korean-style flower set, 78 yuan

Photos provided by KODO

## Nature-inspired pieces

Natural-looking decorations are best for the home. This philosophy is evident in the cornucopia of items in KODO, a 10-year-old home decor shop in Wanda shopping mall.

"We specialize in things with an air of nature. We have an assortment of small, nature-related home decoration items such as wooden flowerpots you can put on office tables and bookshelves. We also sell sets of flower-carved wooden boxes in various shapes," said owner Lynda Wong, a former high school Chinese teacher in Taiwan.

After retiring from teaching, Wong and her husband Keith Liu – whom she describes as having a great eye for style – decided to go into the home decor business. They visited annual home furnishing exhibitions all over China to find merchandise for their shop.

Wong said flower-shaped or flower-carved furnishings and decor can bring "the air of nature inside the house" during times when flowers are off limits, such as when some residents are allergic to them or pets might destroy them.

KODO also offers a variety of gift items, such as rainbow-colored flower pots, lovely environmentally-friendly bags in all sizes, creative photo frames, amber jewelry, cute wrist watches, mood rings encrusted with tiny flowers and delicate bracelets in turquoise shell-like stone.

### KODO

Where: 2 Guanghua Lu, Wanda shopping mall, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 010-5100 0569



# Beer and grill for summer nights

By Annie Wei

As the weather heats up, people can enjoy the best part of the day – eating grilled food, drinking beer and hanging out with friends – at night.



Xenon Yuan, blogger  
of chinabeergeek.com

## Foreign beer challengers

By Annie Wei

With summer and the World Cup just around the corner, the battle for market supremacy among beer manufacturers like Yanjing, Snow and Tsingdao are heating up again. The Big Three cannot discount the challenge posed by imported beers, which have flooded the mainland in the past five years.

In the interest of the freedom to choose, *Beijing Today* introduces some of the smaller, but nevertheless good-tasting, foreign beer brands. Xenon Yuan, a sales representative for Dxcelpartners, an importer and distributor of Red Seal Sale and Brooklyn Lager as well as other smaller beer producers, served as our guide. Yu regularly hosts beer tastings and runs the blog chinabeergeek.com.

### Inedit by Estrella Damm of Barcelona, Spain

Inedit was specifically created for food pairings by independent brewer Estrella Damm.

"It is based on the Belgian *wit-bier* (wheat beer) style, similar to Hoegaarden but more fragrant. It is a light and crisp beer, brewed with barley malt, wheat and spices like coriander, licorice and dried orange peel. A small portion of pale lager is also blended to provide additional crispness to the body. Unfiltered and re-fermented in the bottle, the yeast sediment helps contribute a creamy texture," Yuan said.

#### Where to buy

Salt: 8 Jiangtai Xi Lu, Chaoyang District, Tel. 6437 8457

Invito: 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District, Tel. 5905 6906

Cost: 80-100 yuan a bottle

### Dead Guy Ale by Rogue Ales of Oregon, US

The drink was influenced by the Maibock, a German brewing style that produces strong, spring-time lager. Rogue Ales, however, uses its house ale yeast, which ferments much quicker and at higher

temperatures than a lager.

"Colored amber, it has the same malty character as a Maibock, but the ale yeast brings fruitier notes and a more phenolic character. Rogue also uses more hops than in a typical German bock, so it is slightly more bitter. The hops used are mainly European varieties, so the character is more herbal and grassy," Yuan said.

#### Where to buy

Kro's Nest: North gate of Workers' Stadium (next to Vics), 9 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District, Tel. 6553 5253

Apothecary: 3/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District, Tel. 5208 6040

Jenny Lou's supermarkets

Cost: 30-40 yuan from restaurants and bars, 25 yuan from supermarkets and grocery stores

### Chateau Jiahu, by Dogfish Head Craft of Delaware, US

This was inspired by a beverage that existed 9,000 years, traces of which were found in clay pots dug up in Jiahu, Henan Province. Dogfish's brew includes pre-gelatinized rice flakes, wildflower honey, muscat grapes, barley malt, hawthorn fruit and chrysanthemum flowers brewed with sake yeast.

"With a deep honey-orange color, it has a sweet, fruity and floral aroma and flavor. On the palate, it is slightly drier but still relatively sweet, and you may detect spices and musky notes from the grapes used," Yuan said. "Carbonation is mild to moderate, and the body should be lightly syrupy, but not too heavy."

The beer is not yet available on the mainland.

### John John Ale by Rogue Ales of Oregon, US

This comes from a special batch of Dead Guy Ale aged in oak



Inedit

Chateau Jiahu



John John Ale

whiskey barrels. Both Rogue Ales' brew master and spirits master/distiller are called John, thus the beer's name.

"With Dead Guy as the base beer – but aged in whiskey barrels – you get a woody oak character, which also has notes of vanilla. The whiskey also imparts notes of leather and tobacco," Yuan said.

The beer is not yet available on the mainland.



Australian lamb, 38 yuan Photos by Dai Rui



Sushi, 15-35 yuan per piece

## Affordable Japanese in Sanlitun

By Annie Wei

Unlike restaurants on the famous Sanlitun North Road – better known as Sanlitun Bar Street – the ones on the south road are inexpensive without sacrificing quality and quantity. Among them is Tokyojoying, a new sushi and grill bar with a cozy ambience.

The restaurant is building a reputation for quality grill at affordable prices. Its rack of lamb, for instance, uses tender and juicy Australian lamb for only 38 yuan for two pieces. The Angus beef spare rib comes in a mouth-watering big serving, priced only 60 yuan.

We recommend its grilled sea shrimp (30 yuan for three pieces), tiger shrimps from Vietnam, where exporters freeze the shrimps five seconds after they are caught to ensure freshness.

Its sea eel grilled with Japanese pepper (63 yuan) is also a must-try. Most Japanese restaurants serve eel with a strong soybean sauce; here, the eel is only seasoned with pepper and a bit of salt, giving it a more natural taste.

Tokyojoying's grilled ox tongue (48 yuan) only uses the part's middle, so you have none of the toughness. Its grilled chicken is filleted and stuffed

with your choice of mingtai fish, pork or goose liver (30 to 38 yuan per order, depending on the filling).

Most grills take five to 10 minutes.

For sashimi, try the restaurant's selected sashimi platter (198 yuan), which contains five types of fish including tuna and red snapper. For the tuna, the fish's back and belly are used to give the pieces more texture. We'd like to note the wasabi sauce here: freshly ground and with a smooth, naturally spicy flavor.

The ingredients for Tokyojoying's sushi and sashimi are shipped from Japan every other day.

If you want to pass on the grilled and raw dishes, try the Matsutake soup (30 yuan), made from truffles.

And what's a meal at a Japanese restaurant without sake? Tokyojoying serves the brand Onikoroshi (38 yuan per bottle), similarly priced but better than Shochibubai, which is what most Japanese restaurants use.

### Tokyojoying sushi and grill bar

Where: 1/F, Taiyue Suites, 16 Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 5 pm – 2 am next day  
Tel: 6586 9899



Dead Guy Ale

Photos by Yuan Zineng

# Two int'l troupes join Beijing Modern Dance Festival

By He Jianwei

Unlike last year's festival that only showcased domestic troupes, the 3rd Beijing Modern Dance Festival will feature two leading international companies – Israel's Inbal Pinto and Avshalom Pollak Dance Company and France's Systeme Castafiore.

Pinto and Pollak, founded in 1992 and based at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv, "have a knack for crafting out-of-the-ordinary theatrical experiences that can transport willing viewers to places of surreal beauty, uncommon oddity and shadowy depths," the *Washington Jewish Week* said.

The company, which is on its first visit to Beijing, will present *Rushes and More* and selected pieces from its repertoire at the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) tonight. *Rushes* is a surreal tragedy-comedy, "a dreamscape involving lots of chairs and a deeply moving misfit's love story," the *Washington Post* said. It is a collaboration of Pinto, Pollak and Robby Barnett, founder and choreographer of the Pilobolus Dance Theater in Connecticut, US.

Systeme Castafiore, on the other hand, known for integrating dance with video is regarded as the creator of "theatrical choreography." The company's choreographers, Marcia Barcellos and Karl Biscuit, are guided by the philosophy "play while



rethinking the world."

The troupe is bringing to the Beijing stage *Manuel of Marvels*, a fusion of dance, theater and design presented in collaboration with Chinese actor Wu Xiaodong.

"It is an exciting experience to see Systeme Castafiore dance, since this company breaks all the rules of dance that we know," said Willy Tsao, artistic director of Beijing Dance/LDTX, joint sponsor of the Beijing Modern Dance Festival along with the NCPA.

Besides dance performances, lectures and film screenings will also be presented during the 11-day festival.

## Upcoming

### Nightlife Club 8

The Swedish band, composed of Karolina Komstedt and Johan Angergard, plays anorak pop.  
Where: Mao Livehouse, 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: May 18, 8 pm  
Admission: 120 yuan advance purchase, 150 yuan at the door  
Tel: 5205 1112

## Stage in June

### Concert

**Daniel Harding and the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra**

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 11, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-980 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

**Joshua Bell and the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Orchestra**

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 24, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-680 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Dance

**B-Boyz & Ballerina**

Where: PLA Theater, 60 Dengshengmen Dajie, Xicheng District

When: June 4-13, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-880 yuan  
Tel: 8322 0726

### Behind

Where: 46 Theater, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: June 3-5, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 50-280 yuan  
Tel: 6417 0058

**Marlet by Beijing Contemporary Dance Theater**

Where: Multi-Purpose Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 19-20, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 160-280 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Drama

**Thunder and Rain**

Where: Peking University Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: June 5, 7 pm  
Admission: 80-150 yuan  
Tel: 6275 8452

### Musical

**Love, Crazy**

Where: Haidian Theater, 28 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian District

When: June 2-6, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-880 yuan  
Tel: 6405 4842

### Opera

**Verdi's La Traviata**

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 1-6, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-680 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

## 5 Friday, May 14

### Exhibition Tono Monogatari – The Tales of Tono Daido

Moriyama exhibits a selection of works from the 1970s, a period in which he developed a signature style characterized by high contrast, blurs and rough printing.

Where: Shadows Photography Art Center, 155 Caochangdi, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 30, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6432 2663

### Movie

**Bancs Publics (Park Benches, 2009)**

The film, comprising short episodes featuring 86 French actors, portrays an ordinary day in Versailles.

Where: French Cultural Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District

When: 7:30 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6553 2627

### Nightlife

**When Life Screwed Me Up**

Gua, a rock and post-funk band from Xining, Qinghai Province, is on their nationwide concert tour.

Where: Weibozhiyan Club, Room 2308, 3/F North Building, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 9 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan advance purchase, 40 yuan at the door  
Tel: 5900 0969



## 6 Saturday, May 15

### Nightlife Buyi Band 1995-2010

The band, founded five years ago in Yinchuan, Ningxia Province, fuses Western rock and roll with the folk music of northwestern China.

Where: Star Live, 3/F Tango, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm  
Admission: 60 yuan advance purchase, 80 yuan at the door, 220 and 380 yuan VIP seats  
Tel: 6402 5080

### Movie

**Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter ... and Spring (2003) and The Last Trapper (2004)**

The first is a South Korean film that follows the life of a Buddhist monk from childhood to old age, the second about a year in the life of a rugged wilderness inhabitant in Canada's Yukon territory.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District

When: 1 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan for two films  
Tel: 8229 6153

### Exhibition



### I Love You

In his latest works, Zhang Qikai juxtaposes two types of materials, images or objects to examine conflict and contradiction.

Where: Dialogue Space, 22 International Art Plaza, 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 23, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5876 0226

## 7 Sunday, May 16

### Movie

**Knitting (2008)**

Daping hates Haili, who strode out of nowhere into her apartment, her life and her promising relationship with Chen Jin. Haili bullies her mercilessly, and then one day, Chen disappears, leaving Daping pregnant again and not knowing how to survive.

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, North section of the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 4 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan  
Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008

### Exhibition



**Beauty – Flowers in Photography**

The exhibition presents abstract reproductions of nature by 11 foreign artists.

Where: Alexander Ochs Galleries Beijing, 255 Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 30, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8456 2054

### Nightlife

**Jean-Efflam Bavouzet**

The French pianist performs a selection of pieces by countryman Maurice Ravel, who is often compared to Claude Debussy.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30-380 yuan  
Tel: 6417 7845

### Flying Midnight

The band, formed by vocalist and guitarist Wang Lu and drummer Xu Biao in 2004, is influenced by British rock.

Where: Penghao Theater,

35 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 7 pm  
Admission: 50 yuan advance purchase, 60 yuan at the door  
Tel: 6400 6472





# Boost your baby's immune system

By Li Zhixin

Many parents think their baby will have a strong immune system as long as he or she is attended to prudently after birth. However, a child's immune system is a delicate matter, influenced even by the mother-to-be's lifestyle before giving birth.

## Sun-shy mothers may raise health risk in babies

Children whose mothers have low exposure to sunlight during their first three months of pregnancy may have a higher risk of developing multiple sclerosis later in life, a study in Australia has found.

Low vitamin D levels have long been linked to a higher risk of multiple sclerosis (MS). Experts suspect an expectant mother's lack of exposure to sunlight — the main source of vitamin D — may affect the fetus's central nervous system or immune system and predispose it to developing MS later in life.

In the Australian study, researchers combed birth records of 1,524 MS patients born between 1920 and 1950 and found there were more of them born in the months of November and December.

This means their first trimester occurred during the winter months of April to June, a time when expectant mothers in the southern hemisphere may prefer to be indoors to escape the cold.

Conversely, there were far fewer MS patients who were born in May and June — meaning their first trimesters were in the early summer months of September to November.

"The risk of multiple sclerosis was around 30 percent higher for those born in the early summer months of November and December compared to the months of May and June," the researchers said in a statement.

The research by Judith Staples and Lynette Lim at the Australian National University in Canberra and Professor Anne-Louise Ponsonby at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute was published in the *British Medical Journal* last Friday.

Vitamin D may be particularly important for the development of the fetus's central nervous system, the researchers wrote.

"Vitamin D supplementation for the prevention of multiple sclerosis might also need to be considered during in utero development," they wrote in the paper.

Their findings were supported by previous studies conducted in the northern hemisphere which found more cases of MS among people born in May, whose mothers probably had little exposure to sunlight in their first trimester during the colder months of September to November.

Multiple sclerosis is a disease in which the fatty myelin sheaths around the axons of the brain and spinal cord are damaged, leading to demyelination and scarring as well as a broad spectrum of symptoms. It can affect the ability of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord to communicate with each other, and cause permanent disability with symptoms such as numbness or weakness in one or more limbs, partial or complete loss of vision, tremors and an unsteady gait.

## Ways to boost your baby's immunity

"Pregnancy has a definite impact on the fetus and expectant women's immune system," said Dong Lijuan, a doctor at Beijing Children's Hospital. "During pregnancy, the immune system is suppressed, so the father's sperm, embryo or fetus isn't rejected as something foreign. As a result, white blood cells, also called aka immune cells, lose some of their capability to fight off your body's enemies, making you and your baby more susceptible to illnesses and infections while pregnant."

There are many healthy habits mothers-to-be can develop to give both their and their baby's immune system a boost, besides moderate and regular exposure to sun. "A strong immune system will help you both fight off pathogens," Dong said.

**1. Eat more fruits and vegetables.** "Carrots, green beans, oranges, strawberries contain immunity-boosting phytonutrients such as vitamin C and carotenoids," Dong said. Phytonutrients can increase the body's production of infection-fighting white blood cells and interferon, an antibody that coats cell surfaces, to block out viruses. Studies show that a diet rich in phytonutrients can also protect against such chronic diseases as cancer and heart disease in adulthood.

**2. Engage in aerobic exercise and massage.** Pregnant women who exercise tend to have more appropriate weight gain, less symptomatic pain, decreased gestational diabetes, improved blood pressure control, improvement in immune system response and even better deliveries, Dong said.

A regular aerobic exercise program benefits the cardiovascular system, improves blood flow, flushes toxins, keeps the endocrine system working well, circulates antibodies and reduces stress.

"After a good workout, ask your partner for a massage," Dong suggested. "Massage has been shown to increase immune system function. Be sure your exercise program is done under the guidance of your doctor."

**3. Mentally unwind.** The best way to protect your immune system is mental, not physical. "Your emotional attitude can be either helpful or detrimental toward your immune system," Dong said.

Keeping a positive attitude and preventing stress are crucial to maintaining a healthy immune system. "If you maintain a positive attitude, you will be able to overcome almost anything," she said.

With the natural challenges of pregnancy, however, being stress-free is easier said than done. Seek out support from friends, family and other expectant moms.

Find positive ways to work out differences with others, especially your partner. You don't want to fight in front of the baby.

**4. Banish secondhand smoke.** If you or your spouse smokes, quit. Cigarette smoke contains more than 4,000 toxins, most of which can irritate or kill cells in the body. Babies are more susceptible than adults to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke because they breathe at a faster rate; a child's natural detoxification system is also less developed. Secondhand smoke increases a child's risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), bronchitis, ear infections and asthma. It may also affect intelligence and neurological development.

**5. Improve sleep quality.** Studies show that sleep deprivation can make you more susceptible to illness by reducing natural killer cells, immune-system weapons that attack microbes and cancer cells. "The result of inadequate sleep definitely affects your fetus, too," Dong said. "So pregnant women need to sleep at least 10 hours at night and take a one-hour nap in the afternoon."

But how much sleep do kids need? A newborn may need up to 18 hours of crib time a day, toddlers require 12 to 13 hours and preschoolers need about 10 hours, she said.

**6. Breastfeed your baby.** Breast milk contains turbo-charged immunity-enhancing antibodies and white blood cells. Breast nursing can guard against ear infections, allergies, diarrhea, pneumonia, meningitis, urinary-tract infections and SIDS. Studies show that it may also enhance a baby's brainpower and help protect him or her against insulin-dependent diabetes, Crohn's disease, colitis and certain forms of cancer later in life.

"Colostrum, the thin yellow 'pre-milk' that flows from the breasts during the first few days after birth, is especially rich in disease-fighting antibodies," she said.

The doctor recommended that moms breast-feed for a year. "If this commitment isn't realistic, aim to breast-feed for at least the first two to three months in order to supplement the immunity your baby received in utero," she addressed.

**7. Guard against spreading germ.** Fighting germs doesn't technically boost immunity, but it's a great way to reduce stress on your baby's immune system. "You should pay particular attention to their hygiene before and after each meal and after playing outside, handling pets, blowing their nose or using the bathroom," Dong said.



CFP Photo



# Palace of Chinese theater art Spring/Summer at the National Center for the Performing Arts

By Zhang Dongya

May is the peak season for theatrical performances, and so it is no surprise the National Center for the Performing Arts is simultaneously holding an opera and a classical music festival.

The Opera Festival, happening through July 4, consists of 250 opera performances, 23 opera films, 10 exhibitions and more than 50 lectures. The May Festival, meanwhile, showcases 14 concerts featuring domestically and internationally renowned classical musicians, including Chinese pianist Li Yundi and the Berlin Philharmonic Percussion Group.

Since it was founded in 2007, the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) has introduced to mainland audiences new performances and art forms. A visit to the center is both a relaxing and an educational way to spend the weekend.



The NCPA's Concert Hall, with 2,000 seats, will host all the May Festival classical music concerts.



The 5th Space Stage holds opera performances for an hour in the afternoon from Tuesday to Friday.

## Theaters for drama, opera and concerts

All NCPA theaters, including its top three – the Opera House, Theater for Drama and Concert Hall – are open to the public at daytime, except when there are rehearsals.

The Theater for Drama, which has a capacity of 1,030 people, stages Peking Opera, traditional Chinese operas from other localities and modern dramas.

It has red carpeting and red silk-covered seats said to be waterproof, flameproof and mothproof. But unlike traditional theaters, it boasts of a mobile stage and high-tech lighting and sound systems. Adaptations of Peking Opera to suit the venue has enabled it to give both artists and audiences a "modern Peking Opera experience."

The mobile stage can rotate as it rises and lowers. "It enhances traditional performance styles," said Liao Yi, spokesman for the NCPA's brand promotion department. "In the past, an actor had to step on a chair to portray climbing a mountain. Now the stage takes care of that."

In traditional Peking Opera, the set is only composed of a table and two chairs; in present-day performances, more props are added.

In olden times, there were musicians on either side of the stage; at NCPA, a recessed section in front of the stage has been designed specifically for them.

Last week, an adaptation of *Migrating West* (Zouxikou) was staged at the theater by the Peking Opera Company of Shanxi Province. Music was provided by an orchestra instead of a band playing traditional instruments.

In front of the theater's orchestra box is a hidden section with some 100 seats, extra space in case a special performance gets sold out. This provides a unique vantage point to view the artists' movements.

The Opera House staged Georges Bizet's *Carmen* yesterday, while the 2,000-seat Concert Hall will host all the May Festival concerts.

Another room, the Small Theater, with a capacity of 300, is used for dramas and national operas.

Continued on page 21...



The NCPA welcomes May, the peak season for theatrical performances, with two festivals.

Photos provided by The National Center for the Performing Arts





The Peking Opera shop sells souvenir items that cater to fan of Chinese traditional theater.

Photos provided by The National Center of the Performing Arts

... continued from page 20

### Exhibitions of drama stages and paintings

At the entrance to the Theater for Drama is an exhibition on traditional Shanxi theatrical stages, four types in vogue from the Jin (1115-1234) to the Qing (1644-1912), to show the development of Chinese opera.

Big architectural changes become apparent in the late dynasties. During Ming (1368-1644), front and back corridors were added to the stage building, while in Qing, the building took on a more complicated structure with four to five floors.

Nearby is a small exhibition hall reserved for "intangible cultural heritage" exhibitions and currently containing paintings by Chinese painter Li Gang. The collection consists of more than 100 pieces, each portraying a scene in a traditional opera or drama, such as *Farewell My Concubine* (Bawang Bieji) and *The Unicorn Purse* (Suolin Nang). More paintings can be found along the corridors on the second, third and fourth floors.

There are two other exhibition halls in front of Olive Hall, a narrow passage originally designed as an audience rest area during intermissions.

The West Exhibition Hall contains multimedia presentations, text and memento on classic works presented at the center, including Puccini's *Turandot* and *Female Teacher in Mountain Village*, an NCPA original opera. The exhibition gives a behind-the-scenes look at how the famous works were staged in Beijing.

The East Exhibition Hall is now preparing for a display of musical instruments, slated to open Monday.

### Shops, cafes and open stages

The NCPA has two cafes on the first floor serving light snacks and beverages. Beside the East Cafe is an open stage called the 5th Space Stage, where opera performances are held for an hour in the afternoon from Tuesday to Friday. Five floors up is another open stage, Blossom Hall, which presents hour-long operas also from Tuesday to Friday.

On the fourth level is a restaurant serving Western food and which can accommodate as many as 300 people. An Arts Library, on the same floor, houses thousands of books, periodicals and DVDs on Chinese art. It also regularly holds opera lectures given by art professors and critics of music, opera and drama.

Four Franz shops specializing in porcelain and Chinese art can be found along the fourth-floor corridor. Among its merchandise are 13 pieces made specially for the NCPA.

Back at the ground floor are the souvenir shop, TT-Art Bookstore and the NCPA Drama-Artwork Shop.

The souvenir shop's products include T-shirts (68 to 82 yuan), watches, pocket mirrors, mugs, stationery sets and telescopes for operas performances (200 yuan).

TT-Art Bookstore, a Beijing chain, sells books and videos on music, dance, opera and drama.



The souvenir shop sells products specially designed by NCPA.



The Arts Library holds opera lectures given by art professors and critics of music, opera and drama.



The West Exhibition Hall displays NCPA original operas staged in the past two years.

### National Center for the Performing Arts

**Where:** 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

**Getting there:** Hop on Subway Line 1 to Tian'anmen West station, then take Exit C. Alternatively, take bus 1, 5, 10, 37, 52, 205 or 728 to Tian'anmen Xi stop.

**Open:** Daily except Monday, 9 am - 5 pm  
Tel: 6655 0733

**Admission:** 40 yuan (30 yuan for purchases on NCPA's website, [chncpa.org](http://chncpa.org))

**Note:** The "Summer Season Visiting Manual" is available in Chinese and English at the reception desk. Make reservations in advance for an English tour guide, which costs 200 yuan whether for an individual or group.



## Dining



### Sumptuous lunch buffet

Cafe 99's ever so popular lunch buffet now has even more variety, with the addition of a Japanese corner with delicate mouth-watering specialties. The Japanese corner will feature a wide selection of refined Japanese delicacies chosen from our lavish Sushi & Sashimi & Raw Bar, Tempura Station, Noodle and Steamed Food Bar, Tepanyaki & Yakitori Bar, Okonomiyaki & Japanese Desserts Bar, as well as Sake and Japanese Beverage Bar — truly a Japanese cuisine-lover's delight.

Where: Cafe 99, The Regent Beijing, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: May 8 – June 30; 11:30 am – 2:30 pm (buffet lunch), 6–10:30 pm (set dinner)

Cost: 188 yuan per person (buffet lunch), 188 yuan per person including sake and three selected courses (set dinner); subject to 15 percent service charge

Tel: 8522 1789



### Dragon Boat Festival

To commemorate the Dragon Boat Festival, the Summer Palace has prepared an exquisite selection of *Zongzi*, scrumptious treats traditionally eaten at this time of year. Signature flavors include Five Spice *Zongzi*, Lotus Seed Paste *Zongzi*, and traditional red bean paste and luxurious abalone paste. Summer Palace's *Zongzi* are available in a variety of exquisitely designed boxes and hampers to take home or give as gifts.

Where: Summer Palace, China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: May 17 – June 16

Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 34

### Seafood extravaganza

Dive into an oceanic meal of fresh oysters, lobsters, crabs, mussels and prawns at the weekend

seafood buffet dinner at The Ritz-Carlton, Financial Street. Tantalize taste buds with an appetizer spread replete with fresh salad greens, sashimi, sushi and a hearty selection of soups. Then satisfy appetites with a range of barbecued meats that include suckling pig and Peking Duck. Every guest will be served an individual serving of either a Boston lobster or a King Sea scallop.

Where: The Ritz-Carlton, 1 Jinchengfang Dong Jie, Financial Street, Xicheng District

When: Every Friday and Saturday, 5:30–9:30 pm

Cost: 328 yuan for adults, 164 yuan for children (6–12 years), including free-flowing soft drinks, fresh juices, house red and white wine, vodka from the caviar station as well as coffee or tea



Tel: 6629 6990

### Swedish Week

Extravagant buffet filled with famous Swedish chef Gunnar Eriksson's Scandinavian delicacies.

Where: Vous Lobby Lounge, Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 16–22

Cost: 158 yuan (Swedish Afternoon Tea for two persons), 208 yuan (lunch buffet), 288 yuan (dinner buffet)

Tel: 8599 6666



### Linguine Vongole

Italy's cuisine is as exciting, varied and wondrous as the country itself. Our chef has created the classic Linguine Vongole using fresh seafood and precious mushroom to enhance the flavor, leaving you with an unforgettable mouth-watering experience.

Where: Crown Plaza Beijing Zhongguancun, 106 Zhichun Lu, Haidian District

Tel: 5993 8888

## Hotel

### Shangri-la Hotels and Resorts to open two hotels in Jiangsu Province

This Wednesday, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts announced that it would open Shangri-La Hotel, Nanjing, and Shangri-La Hotel, Yangzhou, in 2012. The two Jiangsu Province hotels will join the group's six existing hotels in the Yangtze River Delta and two further projects in Shanghai opening in the next two years. By 2012, Shangri-La will operate 10 hotels in the region and be represented in all major cities of this economic powerhouse and be a center of business and leisure travel.

For more information, visit shangri-la.com.

### I Swear a Low-Carbon Living

Aimed at carbon emission reduction, I Swear a Low-Carbon Living took place at the parking lot of Swissotel Beijing on April 22, International Earth Day. Hotel guests, local media and about 20 hotel employees participated in the activity. The organizer placed clean white socks on the exhaust pipes of participating cars and ran the engines for two minutes. Black marks appeared on the socks. Every participant responded very positively when the organizer asked for people to go car-free for one day every month and vow to read a booklet suggesting "20 ways of low-carbon living."

Where: Swissotel Beijing Hong Kong Macau Center, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6553 2288

## Tourism

### Ninety Percent Travel

Don't miss the golden season for nature. The Golden Summit is the largest folk culture show in northern China, coinciding with the rose blossoms this year. The migrating season for birds has been delayed this year, so don't miss this big party of thousands of migrating birds. Dalinor in Inner Mongolia is another perfect destination for birding. Since it is finally warm enough to camp in the mountains, head to the mountains of Labagoumen for a weekend. The nicely preserved forest provides an ideal destination for medical herbs search.

Tel: 5962 6850

## Event



### Retro

Are you an '80s child? Tell us why you remember the '80s and we'll pour you a free glass of Kamikaze. The visiting DJ entertains with the best of that era.

Where: Centro, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 27–28

Tel: 6561 8833 ext. 42

### DJ Wordy + DJ Lomang with special guest

Frustrated by the sea of sameness found in most clubs in Beijing, DJ Wordy (3 x China DMC Champion) and DJ Lomang (NYC/Ghostface Killah's China Tour DJ) make it their monthly mission to bring the freshness. With special international guest DJs from Paris, Germany, Japan, NYC, SF, HOTPOT is already known as the top-choice refuge for non-commercial club music in Beijing.

Where: The Opposite House, Building 1, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 25

Tel: 6410 5210

### Vogue's guide with promotions at Sanlitun Village

Vogue magazine's editors will decode the summer's latest trends and demonstrate how to mix and match different priced items at the event "More Dash than Cash" at Sanlitun Village, May 22.

From May 10 to 30, more than 22 top fashion brands at the Village, including Chriss Della Moda, Frey Wille, Artin and Folli Folie, will offer special discounts for those showing the Vogue coupon, which customers can get off the June issue of Vogue.

Shops will offer different discounts: Adidas and Columbia will have 10 percent off for the new arrivals, while Puma and Esprit offer 20 percent.

(By Zhang Dongya)

### Barbecue tapas, beer, ball

There's nothing like catching your favorite soccer team Live at Havana this World Cup with a great outdoor BBQ and some ice cold beer available in the bar and at the terrace. You could even walk away with some fabulous prizes in the "guess the score" game, which happens with every match.

Where: Havana, Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsuanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 11 – July 11

Tel: 6530 9383

(By Sun Feng)





## Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

# Play a sport or go to a sporting house?



By Han Manman

What's the best way to integrate yourself into your new environment when you study abroad? The key is to make friends with the locals, say those who have been through the experience.

Lin Sen took this advice to heart when he went to Stanford University in California. After getting oriented with the campus and his class schedule, Lin decided to take the initiative in making friends with a classmate named Ryan.

Ryan struck Lin as your average, sports-loving American guy, so he thought a game of basketball might be a good overture of friendship. "Hey, Ryan, do you have time after school?" Lin asked.

"Sure, what's up?" Ryan said.

"How about going with me to the sporting house," Lin said.

"Huh?" Ryan was shocked a mere acquaintance would suggest going to a brothel. He thought the guy was quite creepy but didn't want to embarrass Lin so he said, "I'm afraid I can't, man. I'm broke."

"Sorry. I didn't know you are broke because you look normal. Where is your injury?" Lin said, thinking Ryan meant "injured" when he said he was "broke." "I hope you recover soon. Then maybe we can go to the sporting house together."

"What injury?" Ryan said, feeling very confused with the exchange.

"You said you are broke that's why

you can't play sports. What part of your body has an injury?" Lin said.

Ryan finally realized he had misunderstood Lin's invitation; the guy wanted to play sports – not visit prostitutes.

He sheepishly explained, "When I said I was broke, I meant 'penniless,' because I thought you wanted to go to a 'sporting house.' You know what that means, right? A place where you can find prostitutes. But I think what you really meant was to go playing sports."

Lin's face went red with embarrassment. He could only stammer, "I'm sorry."

"Hey, no worries, man. I can show you the gym or we can shoot some hoops," Ryan said, slapping Lin on the back.

## Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

# Tourist breathing place

By Tiffany Tan

A "breathing place" is exactly what major tourist sites in the country need. Among the first comments I hear from family and friends who visit Beijing is, "There are so many people here!" Yes, because this is The Most Populous Country in the World – at least for another four decades, until India claims the title.

The Chinese people alone are fighting for space – that's why elbowing and shoving in subways and buses used to be a staple of everyday life in pre-Olympics Beijing – but when you add hundreds of tourists to the mix, I can definitely imagine a situa-



tion where some people might be gasping for air.

After having visited dozens of cities in more than 20 countries and territories, until now, nothing can top the crowds I saw in Shanghai on Labor Day 2005. The sign above took me back to being part of a sea of bodies in the city's main thoroughfares and being stuck like a sardine in a can inside a subway carriage. I had difficulty breathing; it was quite scary.

But our sign is probably located in some minor tourist attraction because it actually just says "tourist rest area." We definitely won't find any first-aid type of action here.

## Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

### 1. He admitted to have received several million dollars in bribes.

**Professor Zhu Shida (ZS):** Is there anything wrong with this sentence? Can you discern where the error lies? This is a mistake that beginners are fairly liable to make. As we know, "to admit to" is a set phrase followed by an object. For instance, "He admitted to the crimes he committed." The object can be a noun and a noun clause. For instance, "He admitted to having taken bribes." You cannot say: He admitted to have taken bribes. You have to change the phrase "have taken bribes" into a gerund phrase "having taken bribes," a noun clause which serves as the object. Now, can you see what is wrong with the sample sentence? It should be: He admitted to having received several million dollars in bribes, or, He admitted having taken bribes.

### Native speaker Anthony Tao (AT):

The professor is spot-on with his analysis, though "He admitted having taken bribes" is an awkward way of saying "He admitted to taking bribes," or even, "He admitted he took bribes." We're nitpicking here, but the word "take" in this instance may be preferable to "receive," as "take" involves a more active action on the part of the wrongdoer and therefore, perhaps, speaks to the necessity of his confession.

### 2. He pleaded guilty to accept bribes.

**ZS:** The error herein is of the same nature as the first one. As we know, the expression used to be "guilty of"; for instance, "He is found guilty of tax evasion"; "he is guilty of an important misjudgment." However, you have to idiomatically say "to plead guilty to something." "To plead guilty to" is a set phrase followed by an object. For instance, "He pleads guilty to a murder." The object can be a noun or a noun clause. Precisely because it has to be followed by a noun or a noun clause, it won't do if you say: He pleaded guilty to accept bribes. The right way to say it should be: He pleaded guilty to accepting bribes.

**AT:** The analysis is correct once again.

### 3. Unfriend

**ZS:** As we know, the un- is a prefix that can be freely used in forming new words, chiefly adjectives and nouns, like the adjectives unkind, unbonded, un-British, unchic, unrich, uncertain and unfair, or nouns such as unreason, unrest, unemployment. They have been in prevalent use ever since Old English. However, with the introduction of Facebook, Twitter and email, people are becoming increasingly laconic and innovative in making new words, words with the prefix of un- in particular. For instance, you unfriend someone, you unfavorite a video. Now, in ad language, you have KFC's "Unthink: Taste the Unfried Side of KFC"; 7-Up declares itself "Un-Cola"; a radio report tells people how to get "un-broke." The usage of the un- prefix is more prevalent in songwriting nowadays. You have Lucinda Williams's "Un-suffer Me," Toni Braxton's "Un-Break My Heart" and Lynn Anderson's "How Can I Unlove You?," to name a few.

**AT:** I would add that un- is not the only prefix with which we can use liberally. One of the beauties – and curses, for beginners – of the English language is its flexibility, so enterprising practitioners of the language can form new words every day. Also, I just have to point out – the professor will forgive me, I'm sure – that you know you're getting old when you apply "nowadays" to "Un-Break My Heart," which, as we all know, was released in the mid-90s.



# Kick-Ass (2010)

## Movie of the Week

If you feel your life sucks, just check this out.

In a movie industry cluttered with self-grown hype, gimmicks and stale ideas, *Kick-Ass* bursts onto the screen and shatters all expectations in its wake. It does not want to be good or above average, *Kick-Ass* wants to be great. Better yet, it has the balls to want to be original, too. Nicholas Cage again plays a hero, though this one is not that super at all. Mark Strong continues to be the cool bad guy. Like other Hollywood blockbusters, there is much violence here, though this kind is sometimes hilarious.

In a done-to-death genre where we've already glimpsed Mark Millar's signature style in *Wanted*, *Kick-Ass* is all about the unexpected.

## Synopsis

*Kick-Ass* tells the story of average teenager Dave Lizewski, a comic-book fanboy who decides to use his obsession as inspiration to become a real-life superhero. As any good superhero would, he chooses a name – Kick-Ass – assembles a suit and mask, and gets to work fighting crime. There's only one problem: Kick-Ass has absolutely no superpowers.

His life is forever changed as he inspires a subculture of copycats, meets up with a pair of crazed vigilantes – including an 11-year-old sword-wielding dynamo, Hit Girl, and her father, Big Daddy – and forges a friendship with another fledgling superhero, Red Mist. But thanks to the scheming of local mob boss Frank D'Amico, the new alliance is put to the test.

## Vocabulary

- bug someone:** to bother or annoy someone
- take someone's word:** to be convinced of another's sincerity
- in way over someone's head:** be overwhelmed by the situation
- get hold of:** to get in touch with
- heads up:** here it means be careful
- pass up:** to let go or reject

(By Wang Yu)



## Scene 1

(Dave talks with his friends Todd and Marty about being a superhero.)

**Dave (D):** How come nobody's ever tried to be a superhero?

**Marty (M):** Well, I don't know. Oh wait, yeah I do. 'Cos it's impossible, dickwad.

**D:** What, putting on a mask and helping people? How is that impossible?

**Todd (T):** That's not a superhero, though. Super is, like, being stronger than everybody and flying and s--t. That's just hero.

## Scene 2

(Big Daddy and Hit Girl break into Dave's room after they've saved him.)

**D:** I didn't say anything to anyone, I swear!

**Big Daddy (B):** Good move. Ass, Kick. Let's keep it that way.

**Hit Girl (H):** Know what this is? All the cartridge s--t that comes out of your taser when you fire it. You do know the police could trace it right back to you if

## Scene 3

(Big Daddy's old partner, Marcus, finds out where he lives.)

**B:** How did you find me, Marcus?

**Marcus (M):** One of us is still a cop, remember?

(Marcus picks up a comic book by Big Daddy.)

**B:** Is this how you brainwash Mindy?

**B:** You say I brainwash. I say Mindy and I am doing a game.

**M:** This your idea of playing, Damon? Vigilante justice? Mass murder? Come on, partner! So where is she?

**B:** She's safe.

**M:** No, it's not even hero, it's psycho.

**D:** Hello? What about Bruce Wayne? He didn't have any powers.

**T:** Yeah, but he had all that expensive s--t that doesn't exist. I thought you meant, like how come no one does it in real life.

**D:** Yeah, Todd, I guess I did mean that.

**M:** Dude, anyone who did it for real would just get their ass kicked. They'd be dead in, like, a day.

**T:** A day.

they've found it? Lucky for you, I picked it up.

**D:** Thank you.

**B:** Let's call it insurance. Makes it easier for us to take your word (2). See, we like you. But we don't trust you.

**H:** Don't take it personal though. We don't trust anybody.

**B:** I re-routed your IP address for you. Finding you was way too easy.

**D:** S--t ... I hadn't ... God! I owe you. I am thinking of shutting my site down,

**M:** Can I see her? I miss her, I miss you both.

**B:** I appreciate your concern. But you need to go now.

**M:** I would like to warn you that a--hole Gigante is looking for Kick-Ass. He have anything to do with you, Damon?

You got some kind of superhero club?

**B:** Never heard of them.

**M:** Ok, then heads up (5). You carry on like you have been doing and it's only a matter of time before Gigante's looking for you, too. He's been on D'Amico's payroll ever since you passed up (6) the opportunity.

**B:** You know I'm never gonna

**D:** OK, OK ... I am not saying they should do it. I just can't figure out why no one does. Seriously, among all the people who love superheroes you'd think at least one would give it a try. Jesus, doesn't it bug (1) you? Why do thousands of people wanna be Paris Hilton, and nobody wants to be Spiderman?

**M:** Yeah, what's with that? She has, like, no tits. None at all.

**T:** Maybe it's the porn tape. He doesn't have a porn tape.

**M:** You never saw *One Night in Spiderman*?

anyway. Quitting. This is ... insane. I am in way over my head (3).

**H:** Shame. You have potential.

**B:** Your call. But, right now, we're around if you need us.

**D:** How do I get hold of (4) you?

**H:** Oh, just contact the mayor's office. He has this special signal he shines into the sky.

**B:** You need us, put on your site that you're on vacation. We'll find you. Hit Girl, let us return to the headquarters.

stop. Not until D'Amico and his whole damn operation are burned to ashes and buried.

**M:** This is no life for Mindy. You owe that kid a childhood.

**B:** No, I'll tell you who owes her a childhood – Frank D'Amico.

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